

RHODE ISLAND CHRONOLOGY

1774. May 4. Census ordered by the General Assembly.
(Total population, 57,707)
1774. May 17. A Continental Congress proposed in town meeting in Providence, and subsequently in other towns.
1774. June 15. Stephen Hopkins and Samuel Ward elected delegates to the Congress.
1775. April 22. A thousand militia either started or were ready to start, for the seat of war on the reception of the news of the battle of Lexington.
1775. April 22. Army of observation of 1,500 men voted by the General Assembly. Governor Wanton protested.
1775. June 22. Nathanael Greene chosen Brigadier-General, and August 9, 1776, made a Major-General by Congress.
1775. Nov. 5. Ezek Hopkins appointed by Congress Commander in Chief of the American navy.
1775. Nov. 7. Governor Wanton formally deposed by act of the General Assembly.
1776. May 4. The General Assembly formally renounces allegiance to Great Britain in the old state house in Providence.

Antedates by two months the resolution of Independence adopted by the Continental Congress at Philadelphia and antedates also the adoption of the Virginia "Bills of Rights."

Thus Rhode Island may justly claim the oldest independent State in the United States.

1776. July 18. Declaration of Independence formally approved by a vote of the General Assembly in Newport (Had been passed by Continental Congress July 4)
- Style and title of government, in all acts and instruments of a public and private nature changed by act of the General Assembly to
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS.
1790. May 29. Federal Constitution adopted.

Rhode Island did not attend the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787. R. I. called a State Convention in 1790 on March 1. A second Convention ratified the Federal Constitution on May 29, 1790, in Newport, R. I.

(Continued from Vol. VIII. - page 27)

Reference: James N. Arnold, NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL REGISTER:
Vol. VI. No. 4 - page 345.

-T-

BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Tefft Elizabeth, of Joseph & Esther, | Dec. 20, 1730 |
| William, " " | Feb. 29, 1732 |
| Joseph, " " | Mar. 19, 1737 |
| Ruth, " " | Mar. 27, 1739 |
| Benjamin, " " | June 3, 1741 |
| Esther, " " | Aug. 6, 1743 |
| Thomas, " " | Nov. 10, 1745 |
| Sarah, " " | Aug. 24, 1747 |
| Samuel, " " | Aug. 29, 1749 |
| Reynolds, of John, Jr., & Hannah, | Oct. 6, 1752 |
| " " " " Died | July 5, 1754 |
| Clarke, " " " | Jan. 7, 1761 |
| Hezekiah, of William & Mary, | Dec. 16, 1753 |
| Pardon, " " | Jan. 27, 1755 |
| Thankful, " " | Mar. 21, 1757 |
| David, " " | April 19, 1760 |
| William, " " | May 21, 1763 |
| Mery, " " | Mar. 13, 1766 |
| John, " " | May 18, 1767 |
| Mery, " " | Apr. 22, 1769 |
| Caleb, Of Joseph, Jr., & Sarah, | Oct. 17, 1757 |
| Mary, " " | Nov. 24, 1758 |
| Taber, " " | Mar. 3, 1761 |
| Jemima, " " | July 10, 1763 |
| Joseph, " " | Apr. 6, 1766 |
| Sarah, " " | June 12, 1768 |
| Anstice, " " | Apr. 1, 1773 |
| Alice, " " | June 16, 1775 |
| Albro, " " | Sept. 27, 1778 |
| Phebe Woodmansee, of Pnelope, | Jan. 3, 1765 |
| Joanna, of Benjamin & Deborah | Feb. 7, 1766 |
| Edward, " " | Mar. 12, 1768 |
| Elizabeth, " " | Sept. 10, 1770 |
| Ase, " " | June 2, 1772 |
| Jesse, " " | Apr. 2, 1776 |
| Mary, of Jeremiah & Rhoda, | Apr. 24, 1771 |
| Jeremiah, " " | Dec. 29, 1772 |
| John, " " | Dec. 18, 1778 |
| Abigail, " " | Mar. 29, 1781 |
| Rhoda, " " | Apr. 11, 1783 |

RICHMOND BICENTENNIAL

TOWN MEETINGS

VIII-33

Ref: R.L.E.No.2 - page 367

January 1, 1776

Monday January the first Day 1776 the town met according to the above adjournment.

Voted Joseph Woodmensee Esq. be moderator for the day.

Voted Jonathan Potter have an order to the Treasurer for the sum of one pound ten shillings it being for collecting the town rate. Order granted.

Voted Jonathan Potter having order to the Treasurer for the sum of Ll-10-7 with the interest until paid it being for the money he paid the Treasurer over and above the town rate. Order granted.

Voted the receipt from the Treasurer to Jonathan Potter Collector be recorded.

Voted this present meeting is adjourned to the Monday of this _____ January at the house of George Webb Esq.

Ref: R.L.E.No.2 - page 268

January 22, 1776

Monday the 22nd Day of January 1776 the Town met according to the above adjournment ...

Voted Edward Perry be Moderator for this present meeting.

Voted Clarke Bailey be & he is hereby appointed to receive the lead of the Government & to bring it to the Town & to have three shillings therefore.

Voted Simeon Clarke Jr., have an order to the Treasurer for the same of five shillings & three pence it being for plank to cover the bridge at Wood River ... order granted.

Voted this meeting be & it is hereby adjourned to the second Monday in February next at the house of George Webb, Esq.

August the thirtieth day 1774 received of Peter Clarke collection the sum of fourteen pounds sixteen shillings - Seven pence three farthings it being in full of the Town Rate assessed in the year 1773 received from George Webb, Town Treasurer.

Richmond the first of January 1776 ... These may certify that I have received of Mssr. Jonathan Potter Collector of Rates in orders and cash the whole of the rate ordered and assessed on sd town the thirtieth of August 1774 and one pound 10s & eleven pence one farthing over & above the sd rate.

Test Richard Bailey Town Treasurer.

SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR RICHMOND BICENTENNIAL PUBLICATION

VIII.- 34.

COVER: include seals of Town & Historical Society in design.
RICHMOND HISTORY
Volume I

RICHMOND BICENTENNIAL (1747 to 1790)

RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
and
RICHMOND BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

May 4, 1976 Richmond, R.I.

INTRODUCTION:

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

ARTICLES:

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| 1. Early Richmond Plantations | Lucy Rawlings Tootell |
| 2. History of Villages: | |
| Alton | |
| Carolina | |
| Hillsdale | |
| Kenyon | |
| Quarrelsome Corners | |
| Shannock | |
| Tug Hollow | |
| Usquepaugh | Virginia Arnold |
| Wood River Junction | |
| Woodville | Ida Card Bader |
| Wyoming | June Sheldon |

NOTE: Village history should include:

1. Origin of Name
 2. Original Land Owners
 3. Reason for development
 4. Development of
 - Mills
 - Buildings
 - People
 - Facts of interest
 5. Walking Tour Map
 - Use numbers for buildings still standing
 - Use letters for sites
3. Military History (1747 to 1790)
 4. Revolutionary Days - "Potpourri"
 5. Famous People (1747 to 1790)
 6. Pictures and Maps

NEXT RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOWN MEETING

The next Richmond Historical Society Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, March 16th, at 7:30 P.M. in the Town Hall. Pat Millar will talk on her stay in Great Britain last year and will include pictures with her talk. Members and guests are invited to bring any items of interest on Great Britain for the Shoe & Tell Table.

COLLATION COMMITTEE

The Collation Committee for the above meeting will be: Mr. & Mrs. Henry Boucher, Co-chairmen; and Carolyn Stoner.

RICHMOND HISTORY BOOK PUBLICATION COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the History Book Publication Committee will be held at the Richmond Town Hall on Sunday afternoon, March 14th, at 2:30 P.M.

Contributors and interested members are asked to come to this meeting and bring any written material completed to date. See page 36 for more details of meeting.

Lucy Tootell will bring coffee and fixings. As to food, if each brings just a few finger food items, it will spice up the afternoon. A few sandwiches might be nice. Let's call it pot luck!

ERRATA

In the last issue of RICHMOND HISTORY, please write on the page on Town meetings the number in the upper right hand corner as VIII.- 33.

Also page 29 should be written VIII.- 29. not VII.-29.

Thank you.

MAY 4, 1975 NO LONGER A HOLIDAY

The House of Representatives rescinded the law to declare May 4th a legal Holiday in honor of the Bicentennial. The reason was because Industry wanted to work. Lucy voted against this to no avail. The Senate still has to vote on this. What do you want? One day in two hundred years? Patriotism is no more! No wonder people sit on the flag!

SOCIETY DUES

Send your three dollars to Treasurer Charles Edmonds, Caroline, R. I. Thank you. Be one of our new members!

The Richmond History publication will be a joint enterprise by the Richmond Bicentennial Commission and the Richmond Historical Society. The Commission will furnish part of the cash and the Society will furnish authors and possibly more cash. The Co-Chairmen are Lucy Rawlings Tootell and Paul Michud.

As articles are written they should be brought to the workshop meetings to be read and discussed so that the book will be authentic and coordinated into an interesting picture of Richmond.

The village histories will show the individualities of the various authors but should include certain pertinent data such as:

1. Origin of name of village
2. Original Land Owners
3. Reason for development of village
4. Development of
 - Mills
 - Buildings
 - People
 - Facts of interest
5. Walking Tour Map
 - Use numbers for buildings still standing
 - Use letters for sites

ARTICLES: (includes names of writers as known to date)

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Early Richmond Plantations | Lucy Rawlings Tootell |
| Alton | Gladys Segar |
| Carolina | Hazel Dyson, Louise & Emily Hoxie |
| Hillsdale | Eleanor & Earl Smith |
| Kenyon | Earl Brunskill & Charles Edmonds |
| Shannock | Carolyn Stoner |
| Tug Hollow | Marcus Whitford |
| Usquepaugh | Virginia Arnold |
| Woodville | Ida Bader Card |
| Wyoming | June Sheldon, Peg Niles, Henry Boucher |
| Military History | Paul Michaud |
| Lower Hope Valley | Gladys Segar |

ARTICLES: (still in need of a writer)

Quarrelsome Corners (Richmond Center)
 Wood River Junction
 Arcadia
 Revolutionary Days - "Potpourri" (Items of interest)
 Famous People

Don't forget * our first workshop meeting is Sunday, March 14th, at 2:30 P.m. in the Richmond Town Hall.

Vol. VIII. No.8 L.R.Tootell,Wyoming,R.I.02898 APRIL 1976

NEXT RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOWN MEETING

The next Richmond Historical Society Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, April 20th, at 6:30 P.M. at the Carolina Volunteer Fire Department headquarters on Route 112 (Carolina-Town House Road).

The program will be a COUNTRY HOE-DOWN GET-TOGETHER so wear Bicentennial or Country Clothes and comfortable dance shoes.

There will also be a POT LUCK SUPPER so please call the Collation Chairman, Ida Bader (364-6254) and tell her what you are planning to bring. Thank you.

This Pot Luck Supper is not to be confused with the annual meeting banquet.

With a bit of luck and persuasion, someone may teach you, who do not know it all already, how to make JONNYCAKES !! Professional jonnycake makers are also invited to give advise!

Members are also invited to contribute games, songs, or any fun ideas. Come and enjoy yourself.

COLLATION COMMITTEE

The Collation Committee for the above meeting will be: Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Bader, Co-Chairmen; Hope Blaine, Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Taylor; and Edna Richmond.

NEXT RICHMOND BICENTENNIAL BOOK PUBLICATION COMMITTEE MEETING

The next workshop meeting of the Richmond History Book Publication Committee will be held on Sunday, April 25th, at 2:30 P.M. at the Richmond Town Hall.

Lucy will bring coffee and fixings. Others are asked to bring finger foods such as sandwiches, cookies, etc.

More information on this meeting will be found on another page in the News Letter. Remember everyone is invited to make contributions and ideas to all parts of this book even though you are not doing the actual writing. This is a joint project!

NEW MEMBER

The Membership Chairman is pleased to announce that we have a new member, Paul Michaud, Chairman of the Richmond Bicentennial Commission, and we take this opportunity to welcome him and hope he will enjoy being a member.

JOIN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Dues are \$3.00. Pay Charles J. Edmond, Treasurer, Carolina, R.I.

By Eleanor House Smith

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 P.M. with twelve members, including two children, present. We also had two guests from the Hopkinton Historical Society: Miss Gledys Segar and Miss Gladys Palmer.

Charles Edmonds, Treasurer, reported financial standing of \$2,142.62.

At the March meeting, Petty Miller will give her talk on her trip to England and Scotland. Henry Boucher and Carolyn Stoner will serve the collation.

The current newsletter of the Charlestown Historical Society was shown.

A letter was received from Margaret Arnold (Mrs. Dexter Otis Arnold), the Chairman of the Board of Advisors at Washington, D.C., a board which selects the Outstanding Young Woman of America. To choose the Young Woman of 1976, leaders of various organizations are requested to nominate an outstanding young woman in their community in the age range 2- to 36 years.

Notice was read from the Rhode Island League of Historical Societies concerning the meeting at Johnston and Wales School on February 19.

Paul Michaud received a letter from the American Revolutionary Bicentennial Commission, Washington, D.C., in which it was announced that our Richmond Historical Society Fair will be held July 26. Sorry, but that was last year's date. Our 1976 Fair will be held on July 24.

Herb Arnold reported he had talked with Dennis Murphy concerning Bell School. Mr. Murphy explained that work on the school restoration had been halted because the workmen were called to another project, which was expected to be completed within a month, at which time, work would resume on the Bell School. In the meantime, work is being done on the windows.

The April meeting will be held at the Caroline Fire Station with pot luck supper arranged by Ida and Ray Bader. The entertainment? A HOE-DOWN.

It was voted that Lucy Tootell and Paul Michaud be made co-chairmen to prepare the Richmond Bicentennial History Book; motion being made by Charles Edmonds, seconded by Helen Brunskill

Lucy was given time to discuss the possible format of the history book. She stressed the importance, in daily life, of writing down all the history one remembers; vital family history and events which occur within families. All of these things add up to history which can be used in teaching children and adults. Since we cannot put Richmond's complete history into one book, it was suggested we might write the history from 1747 - 1790, with the thought in mind of writing a supplement at some future time, continuing on from 1790. However, everyone was encouraged to continue on from 1790, and write as much history as they wish, even up to the present time.

As an example, the small book, "Ships, Sailors and Seaports", published some time ago by the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society, was shown. Two or three years were required to realize a return on this book, but, eventually a profit was made. (Continued next page)

(Continued from page 38)

Lucy ran through the proposed format as printed on pages 34 and 36 i.e. origin of village names, how villages came into being, mill-owners, land-owners, etc. Research of town records was stressed to verify authenticity of names and dates. Some light stories should be included to hold the interest of those who do not care much about reading. Sketched maps should be included because sites, buildings, etc., change so much over the years. Degar's store and the Bank Building were cited as examples of such changes. Famous people, such as the early Baileys should be included and the town's military history, at which point she read from the "Gazeteer of Connecticut and Rhode Island," by William S. Marsh (published in 1819), the article on Richmond.

She also read the proposed introduction, "Early Plantation," which she has written for the history book.

Lucy suggested we get together once in a while to go over our material. A confirmed date would be sent to the writers, either by letter or the news letter.

Writing volunteers were called for and responded as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Woodville | Ida & Ray Bader |
| Usquepaugh | Virginia K. Arnold |
| Shannock | Carolyn Stoner |
| Hillsdale | Eleanor & Earl Smith |
| Alton | Gladys Segar |
| Kenyon | Charles Edmonds & Earl Brunskill |
| Military History | Paul Michaud |
| Wyoming | June Sheldon, Peggy Niles, Henry Bourne |
| Arcadia | Ursula Luth |
| Carolina | Hazel Dyson |
| Beaver River Vally | Sally Hoyle |

Persons not present at this meeting were to be interviewed concerning these assignments.

Carolyn Stoner asked at what date the book had to be finished. Lucy stated that no date had been set but whenever it was published, it would be in honor of the Bicentennial.

The meeting adjourned at 4 P.M. so we could enjoy the enormous cake donated by Charlie Edmonds. It was colorfully decorated in honor of the Bicentennial and the Richmond Historical Society and tiny United States flags edged the entire cake. Chocolate chip cookies were also sampled - we country folk have country appetites!

HUMANITIES GRANT

Charlho High School has been awarded a \$2,267 grant by the Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities to carry out a project entitled YANKE INGENUITY: CAN THE GOVERNMENT IT FORGED SURVIVE? Nine seniors at the high school are involved. If they should ask to interview you, hopefully you will be willing.

The first workshop meeting was held at the Town Hall on Sunday afternoon, March 14th, 1976.

Present were: Virginia Arnold, Ida Bader, Gladys Segar, Carolyn Stoner, Carl Richard, Marcus Whitford, Eleanor Smith, Earl Smith, and Lucy Tootell.

The following articles were discussed:

| | |
|------------|-----------------|
| Woodville | Ida Bader |
| Wyoming | Everyone |
| Alton | Gladys Segar |
| Hillsdale | Eleanor Smith |
| Shannock | Carolyn Stoner |
| Tug Hollow | Marcus Whitford |
| Usquepaugh | Virginia Arnold |

Many suggestions were made for additions to the articles discussed. It is important that all be at the meetings in order that your article can be enriched by contributions from the other members. Some excellent suggestions resulted from this meeting.

The next workshop will be at the town hall on Sunday afternoon, April 25, 1976, at 2:30 P.M. (See first page for details).

The Agenda will discuss articles not mentioned at the previous meeting first. If time allows, we will return to comments on articles discussed at the previous meeting.

Everyone is urged to bring any data or references to the Revolutionary military period as it pertains to Richmond.

We are still looking for volunteers to write on one of the following subjects or possibly a topic of their own choice:

Quarrelsome Corner School District No. 5 (Richmond Center)
 WoodRiver Junction
 Arcadia
 Col. John Slocum
 Beaver River Valley
 Brand's Iron Works
 Barberville

We have some very talented members who have not been heard from yet who could do an excellent job with one of these topics or one of their own:

Patricia Millar
 Helen & Earl Brunskill
 Marjorie Schunke
 Marion Hawkins
 Oliver Stedman
 Pauline & Paul deGannett

Don't forget the date for WORKSHOP! - Sunday - April 25 - 2:30 P.M.

TOWN MEETINGS

Ref: R.L.E.No.2 - page 369

February 12, 1776

At a town meeting held by adjournment in Richmond in Kings County in the Colony of Rhode Island on Monday the 12th Day of February 1776 at the house of George Webb Esq.

Edward Perry, Moderator present ---

Voted the Town Council be & they are hereby required to bring in a list of all persons being inhabitants of the Town that are not able to provide for themselves with fire-arms, baggonets, & cartouche boxes, and make report to this town on the 19th day of instant February ---

Voted Clarke Bailey have an order to the Treasurer for the sum of three shillings it being for his bringing the town's lead ... order granted ...

Voted this town meeting be & it is hereby adjourned to the 19th day of this instant February at the house of George Webb ...

February 19, 1776

February Monday the 19th Day 1776 the town met according to the above adjournment.

Edward Perry Moderator present ...

Voted the report presented to the town meeting by the town council is received and ordered to be recorded ...

Voted the treasurer be & is hereby directed to procure three fire arms baggonets & cartouch boxes for the town's use and that he give his security for the same ...

Voted Samuel Stanton have an order to the treasurer for the sum of one pound one shilling it being for service done for the town ... order granted.

Voted that there be a rate or tax on the poles & ratable estate of this town of Richmond of the sum of fifty pounds to be collected & paid into the town treasurer on or before the last Tuesday in August Next ...

Voted two pence be the pole tax for the present rate.

Voted Peleg Thomas Jr., be collector of rates he doing it for eleven pence per pound and complying with the law.

Voted George Webb Esq. & Lieutenant Thomas James be approved of as bondsmen for the faithfull performance of Peleg Thomas Jr., Collector of the rates.

Voted this meeting be & the same is hereby desolved.

(Continued from Vol. VIII. - page 32)

Reference: James N. Arnold, NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL REGISTER:
Vol. VI. No. 4 - page 346.

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BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES

| | | | | |
|-------|------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| Tefft | George, of Samuel, Jr., & Amie, | | | May 7, 1772 |
| | " | " | " | |
| | Susannah, | " | " | Died Dec. 10, 1773 |
| | Amie, | " | " | June 30, 1775 |
| | George, | " | " | Dec. 20, 1777 |
| | Josiah, | " | " | Oct. 18, 1780 |
| | Esther, | " | " | Sept. 12, 1782 |
| | Sarah, | " | " | Feb. 6, 1785 |
| | Elizabeth, | " | " | Jan. 25, 1787 |
| | William, | " | " | Nov. 16, 1788 |
| | Gardiner, | " | " | Oct. 3, 1791 |
| | Benjamin, of Thomas & Lydia, | | | Jan. 26, 1791 |
| | Sarah, | " | " | Sept. 11, 1773 |
| | Esther, | " | " | April 10, 1775 |
| | " | " | " | Feb. 18, 1777 |
| | Joseph, | " | " | Died Dec. 5, 1824 |
| | Thomas, | " | " | April 6, 1779 |
| | Welcome, | " | " | Feb. 23, 1781 |
| | Abram, | " | " | Oct. 4, 1782 |
| | " | " | " | Jan. 24, 1785 |
| | Lydia, | " | " | Died Oct. 9, 1785 |
| | " | " | " | Aug. 4, 1786 |
| | Mary, | " | " | Died Dec. 27, 1786 |
| | " | " | " | Jan. 25, 1788 |
| | Lydia, | " | " | Died April 5, 1827 |
| | " | " | " | June 29, 1790 |
| | Ruth, | " | " | Died May 2, 1797 |
| | " | " | " | July 12, 1794 |
| | James, of William & Mary, | | | Died Oct. 22, 1826 |
| | Joseph, | " | " | Feb. 18, 1776 |
| | Caleg, of Taber & Sarah, | | | March 8, 1779 |
| | Elizabeth, | " | " | Oct. 14, 1782 |
| | Joanna, of Joseph, Jr., & Abigail, | | | June 16, 1784 |
| | Joseph Maxson, | " | " | Dec. 28, 1789 |
| | William, | " | " | Sept. 13, 1791 |
| | Nathan, | " | " | Jan. 20, 1794 |
| | Sarah, | " | " | Oct. 4, 1798 |
| | Benjamin, of Samuel Albro & Sarah, | | | Feb. 21, 1800 |
| | Alice Albro, 1st. | " | " | Nov. 22, 1798 |
| | Alice Albro, 2nd., | " | " | Aug. 1, 1800 |
| | Joseph, | " | " | July 29, 1802 |
| | Samuel Albro, | " | " | July 21, 1804 |
| | Taber, | " | " | Aug. 7, 1807 |
| | Sarah Ann, | " | " | July 23, 1809 |
| | Jeremiah Gardiner, | " | " | Nov. 15, 1812 |
| | | | | Nov. 20, 1817 |

RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Richmond Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, June 15, 1976, at 6:30 P.M. at the Carolina Volunteer Fire Company headquarters on the Carolina-Town House Road.

There will be a POT LUCK SUPPER. Bring your own plate and silverware and cups and napkins.

Hank Handell will be making Jonnycskes.

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Greene Gardner will be invited guests.

The 4H Club will do a square dance.

There will be election of new officers.

COLLATION COMMITTEE

The Collation Committee for the above meeting will be: Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Handell and Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Arnold.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The nominating committee for next year's slate of officers will be: Captain Marcus L. Whitford, Carolyn Stoner, and Yvonne Dawley.

NEXT YEARS DUES

June 1, 1976 is time for dues again. Send three dollars (\$3.00) to Treasurer Charles Edmonds, Carolina, R. I. Please inform him of any change of address. Thank you.

BICENTENNIAL BOOK PUBLICATION

For those who wish to visit the Richmond Archives in the Town Hall to check on material available or help with research, Archivist Lucy Tootell will be at the Town Hall on Tuesday, June 22nd, and 29th, from 2 to 4 P.M. These dates will be the only dates during June for consultation.

Ursula Luth will write on Arcadia, and Earl Brunskill will write on Col. John Slocum. Sally Hoyle is writing on Beaver River Valley.

FOOD AND CRAFT SALE

Save July 24 or raindate July 25 for the annual Food and Craft Sale to be held on the lawn of the Rawlings Estate to be sponsored by the Historical Society. More on this later.

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By James R. Irish, D. D.

CHARACTERISTICS

It has already been noticed that Richmond was made a town in 1747. The first Town Meeting was held August 28th, ten days after the act of incorporation.

"Captain Richard Bailey was chosen Moderator."

"James Adams and Stephen Richmond were chosen to receive the votes put in at this town meeting."

"John Webster was chosen Town Clerk for the remainder of the year, and engaged."

"Voted, that John Webster, Capt. Richard Bailey, Joseph Hoxsie, James Adams, William Potter and Joseph Clarke are chosen the six Town Councilmen for the remainder of the year, and engaged."

"Voted, That Joseph Enos be chosen Treasurer for the remainder of the year, and engaged."

The minor officers for the town were elected much in the same order as at the present day.

Capt. Richard Bailey and John Webster were chosen Deputies to attend the General Assembly to be held in King's County on the last Wednesday in October.

Whether the Town Council were disposed to make their office unnecessarily burdensome to the town, or whether a penurious jealousy sprang up among the freemen, it is difficult now to say. The action of a town meeting, only a few years after organization, shows that political servants were disposed to be fed at the public crib more than the people were willing to ratify. The following was passed as an act of the Town Meeting:

"Whereas, The Town Council of this town has been a considerable charge to the town for their meeting together on the business of said town, for a remedy whereof for the future:

"Be it enacted by said town, That from and after the first Tuesday in June next ensuing, That said Town Council bear their own expenses for the future."

The French and Indian war soon followed. The manner in which the town met the exigency will appear from their action in Town Meeting, held on the 3d day of November 1756, as follows:

(Continued next page)

"Be it enacted in the Town of Richmond, by the freemen and freeholders thereof, That if any man or men be pressed as above said, and is unwilling to go in His Majesty's service, That then the inhabitants of the town shall forthwith hire some able bodied man, or men, to go in his or their room, or rooms, or pay the ransom for the ~~impressed~~ man, or men; and the ransom or hired man or men shall be paid by a public town rate to be assessed on the inhabitants of this town of Richmond in proportion according to their rateable estates now stated by the colony aforesaid; except the pole money.

And be it further enacted by the freemen and freeholders of this town of Richmond, that all the money raised and promised to pay the volunteers, and those pressed, or drawn, or raised in this town of Richmond by a special act of the General Assembly of the Colony aforesaid, to be raised on the 21st day of October last past, the said money shall be repaid unto every man, or men, that has paid or lent money unto the above said soldiers as a bounty or encouragement to enlist.

And be it further enacted, That the aforesaid money shall be repaid by a public town rate to be assessed on the inhabitants of this town of Richmond, inproportion according to their rateable estates now stated by an act of the colony.

And be it further enacted by the freemen and freeholders of the town of Richmond, ~~That all the officers that are or~~ shall be elected as ratemakers, or assessors, or collectors, treasurers or other officers, in executing any part, or parts, of the aforesaid act, or acts, shall have no fee or pay for their labor or trouble, but shall do it for nothing.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every person that shall be rated for the charge aforesaid, shall bring in his proportion of said rate to the Town Treasurer of said Richmond, at, or before the 7th day of December next. And if any person, or persons, shall neglect to bring in his or their rate, as above said, That the Town Treasurer of said Richmond grant forth his warrant to distrain so much of his, or their goods and chattels as will pay their respective rates."

The patriotism thus displayed in relation to the French and Indian war, was but a prelude to a readier and more self-sacrificing consecration in the war of the revolution, as will be seen by the record.

At the last Town Meeting under colonial authority, held June 4th, 1776 one month previous to the declaration of independence, we find the first record of warlike measures made by this town toward the war of the revolution. That record says:

(Continued next page)

"Joseph Woodmancy, Jonathen Maxson, John Clarke, Samuel Clarke, Samuel Staunton, William Konyon, Thomas Lillibridge, Richard Bailey, Jr., Joseph Woodmancy, Jr., and Nicholas Mosher, have agreed to give one day each towards making the town's lead and powder into cartouches."

Again:

"Voted, That Caleb Barber have an order to the Treasurer for three shillings, it being for a box of cartouches."

The next Town Meeting was held August 27th, 1775, when the town enrolled itself as Richmond in King's County,

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

thus indorsing the Declaration of Independence made July 4th, previous.

This meeting ordered that their "old schedules made before the revision of the late laws, be used to the making of cartouches. It was also

"Voted, That Capt. Joseph Tefft, Jr., and Capt. David Potter be a committee to receive of the State the town's proportion of salt, and bring it into town."

At a Town Meeting held September 16th, 1776, it was

"Voted, That the soldiers ordered to be raised in this town, by the committee appointed to act during the recess of the General Assembly, have their wages advanced to three shillings per day, including what is paid them by the government, which shall enlist into the service.

Voted, That captains of the companies in this town be, and are hereby directed to call their respective companies together according to the alarm list, at one or more places on the 19th instant, in order to raise the above mentioned troops.

Voted, On the 20th of September, That Major Richard Bailey and Samuel Clarke be appointed a committee to receive of Wm. Tefft, Esq., twenty-one guns, bayonets and cartouch boxes, and deliver them to the soldiers raised in this town, and that the same be branded with the letter R before delivery.

And that they also be directed to receive of the said William Tefft the remainder of the guns, etc., when finished, giving their receipts for the same, *** and that said committee furnish the ensign and each soldier with a blanket and snapsack; *** and that every soldier furnishing himself with a blanket and snapsack shall be allowed six shillings therefor."

(Continued next page)

"Voted, That if there is no a sufficient sum of money in the treasury to procure the above blankots, etc., the treasurer be authorized to hire a sufficient sum for that purpose.

Voted, That Captain Maxson be allowed one shilling per day for three months if not discharged sooner."

At a Town Meeting held November 29th, 1776, it was

"Voted, That this town give each soldier, now to be raised, one shilling per day over and above the State's pay, as an encouragement for their enlistment, during the time they are in service.

That William Tefft, Esq., be a committee to act in conjunction with the Committee of Safety in the equipping of the soldiers now to be raised."

December 3d, 1776, Town Meeting

"Voted That the Treasurer be directed to hire sixty-three pounds to pay the soldiers now at Rhode Island the town's advance money to them by their return.

Voted, That Richard Bailey have an order of seven pounds, four shillings, it being for blankets for the soldiers."

While the freemen and freeholders showed their readiness to tax themselves to meet the demands of their country in the hour of its trial, the young men, and the patriots of middle life, entered the ranks of the militia, as minute men, to answer any call that a new phase of danger might demand; or, with still greater sacrifice, thrust themselves away from home and its endearments, to endure the fatigue and sufferings of camp life in the field forces of the revolution. Camp life then was no holiday sport, as pictured by the historians of these days. They endured long and fatiguing marches with scanty food and still more scant clothing; sometimes marching over the snow and frozen ground, which they trod with the blood trickling from their chilled and wounded feet. This they endured while the wages were low, and often uncertain, from which to forward supplies to their needy families. Nor were our mothers and their daughters wanting of faith, and the true spirit of consecration, in those times. They gave their sons, brothers, and lovers, words of blessing and words of cheer as they sent them forth to stand in the gap of their country's peril. They stood not in passive idleness to await the result, or to depend on the strong arm of their sons and brothers for support. In the eloquent language of Rev. F. Denison:

"While the men were in camp and in battle, the women managed the home affairs. They not only turned their earnest hands to the distaff, and loom, and needle. They rose up to do all home duties, They conducted the dairy, they managed the horses, cattle and flocks.

(Continued next page)

They even grasped the plow and the sickle."

The foregoing extracts from the records give a clearcut view of the spirit with which our progenitors met the exigencies of the war of the revolution. More such might be made, but these are sufficient for the purpose for which they are made, viz: by the examples of the past, to prompt us to noble endeavors in the present, that shall live to cheer and quicken their, and our, successors in the interests of the future.

The war having, after years of toil and hardship, been brought to a successful issue, and our independence having been acknowledged, a delicate and difficult task was committed to our sages and patriots: the duty of giving to the people a constitution that should bind the people of the States in a union, wise, safe, permanent and successful. After four months of earnest deliberation, the convention adopted a constitution which they had framed, and submitted it to the people of the States for their approval, through their conventions.

A more determined opposition to this constitution was manifested in Rhode Island than in the other States, so that this State was the last to accept it as the law of the land, and to enter into the Union. But as in duty bound, by an Act of the Legislature, this constitution was submitted to the action of the freemen of the several towns, in Town Meeting. The vote of this town, after much discussion, was taken March 24, 1787.

The vote taken shows the conservative tendencies that then prevailed, and the slowness of the people to adopt new and untried principles in important public matters.

There were at the time:

| | |
|---|--------|
| Legal voter in the town | 77 |
| Present and voted | 1 . 69 |
| Voted AGAINST adopting the constitution | 68 |
| Voted FOR its adoption | 1 |

As these votes were taken yea and nay, the names of the voters remain on the record. The name of the man who could dare to stand alone was:

JONATHAN MAXSON

FOOD & CRAFTS FAIR

A reminder that our third annual Food & Crafts Fair will take place on July 24th (in case of rain on July 25th) from 10:00 A.M. to 5 P.M., on the Rawlings Homestead lawn.

There will be contests on needlework samplers and baked bread. Prizes will be awarded to the winners.

Tables will be laden with all manner of handcrafts and homemade jams, jellies, brown bread, cookies, cakes, and treasures.

Yvonne Dawley will have the table with donated baked goods for sale for which we thank those who are giving so generously of their time and money.

Come and bring your friends.

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICER - 1976 to 1977

President: Herbert Arnold
Vice-President: Patricia Millar
Secretary: Ida Card Bader
Treasurer: Charles Edmonds
Member-at-large: Henry Boucher (for 3 years)
Member-at-large: Lucy Rawlings Tootell (for 2 years)
Member-at-large: Marcus L. Whitford (for 1 year)

The above officers will be installed at the September meeting.

DUES

The 1976/77 dues are now owing as of June 1, 1976. Pay your \$3.00 family membership to Charles Edmonds, Treasurer, Carolina, R. I.

BOOK PUBLICATION

A gentle reminder that the article for the Book publication on RICHMOND HISTORY is due as of August 1, 1976.

RICHMOND ON THE MAP AGAIN

Read the article, HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN RHODE ISLAND, by Antoinette Forrester Downing, in the February 1976 issue of RHODE ISLAND HISTORY, the R.I. Historical Society publication. It mentions Thomas A. Tefft and the old R.I. State House on page 5 and shows a picture of the octagonal A.S. Potter house in Carolina, R. I. on page 25. The entire article is worth reading.

The deadline for the historical articles is Aug. 1, 1976. If Chairman Tootell does not receive the article or a written or telephone call from the writers of the articles by August 3rd., she will proceed to ask someone else to do the writing.

It is necessary to know the number of pages in the final publication in order to estimate the total cost of publication. The maps do not have to be completed at this time as a future meeting will be given over to the discussion of maps and pictures to be included. Only the written article is needed by Aug. 3rd.

Lucy Tootell will be at the Archives in the Richmond Town Hall on Tuesday from 2 to 4 P.M. on July 20, 27th, and Aug. 3rd. for consultations or help with the historical files or to receive the finished articles.

Typed articles should be double spaced with 10 & 75 margins. or within the red lines of theme paper which can be purchased at Flemings or any office supply store.

ARTICLES

Richmond Plantations
Alton
Carolina
Hillsdale
Kenyon
Shannock
Tug Hollow
Usquepaugh
Woodville
Military History
Hope Valley Lower
Wyoming

Segar Store, Wyoming
Wood River Junction
Arcadia
Beaver River Valley
Thomas A. Tefft
Col. John Slocum

Lucy Tootell
Gladys Segar
Hazel Dyson
Eleanor Smith
Charles Edmonds & Earl Brunskill
Carolyn Stoner
Marcus Whitford
Virginia Arnold
Ida Bader
Paul Michaud
Gladys Segar
Henry Boucher, June Sheldon,
Peggy Niles,
Gladys Segar
Oliver Stedman
Ursula Luth
Sally Hoyle
Leona Kelley
Earl Brunskill

(Continued from Vol. VIII. - page 42)

Reference: James N. Arnold, NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL REGISTER:
Vol. VI. No. 4 - page 348.

-U-

MARRIAGES

Utter William, and Dinah Reynolds, both of Exeter; m. by
Samuel Tefft, Justice, Nov. 30, 1749.

Note. No virth or death recorded under this letter.

-V-

MARRIAGES

Vallett James, and Mary Ann Moore; m. by Elder Henry B. Locke,
Mar. 31, 1839.

Note. No birth or death recorded under this letter.

-W-

MARRIAGES

Watson Simeon, and Hannah Kenyon; m. by Samuel Refft, Justice,
Oct. 24, 1748.
Abigail, and Caleb Foster, Feb. 9, 1752.
John, and Hannah Harrington; m. by Thomas Kenyon,
Justice, Oct. 31, 1756.
John, and Alice Potter; m. by Edward Perry, Justice
May 17, 1759.
Stephen B. aged 45 years; and Sarah Star, widow, aged
41 years; m. by Elder A. D. Williams, Mar. 5, 1850.

Weaver John, of East Greenwich, and Abigail Kenyon, of Richmond
m. by Stephen Richmond, Justice, Dec. 20, 1747.

Webb Mary, and Jonathan Tefft, Jan. 26, 1749.
George, Jr. and Dorcas Phillips; m. by Stephen Richmond,
Justice, Nov. 19, 1752.
John, and Alice Potter; m. by Stephen Richmond, Justice,
Feb. w0, 1755.
Joshua, of George, and Esther Kenyon, of Thomas, son of
David; m. by Edward Perry, Justice, Feb. 16, 1777.

Webster Elizabeth, and John Kenyon, Jan. 18, 1748.
John, Jr., and Elizabeth Moshier; m. by Stephen Richmond,
Dec. 6, 1751.
Thankful, and Paul Harrington, Oct. 12, 1760.
Thomas, and Patience Adams; m. by Edward Perry, Justice,
Nov. 17, 1765.
Margeret, and Philip Griffeth, May 21, 1769.

By James R. Irish, D. D.

AGRICULTURE, ETC.

Oxen were chiefly their team of draft and all work, the horse being less serviceable from the fact that wagons were almost unknown. Men now living can remember when the "Lockshire" was the only plow for principal work, but that was the successor to others still more rude, awkward and defective. The Lockshire was followed by the Dutch plow. This in turn gave place to the cast iron plow which began to be introduced about 1820 and for a long time was used only by a few. Whether now, polished steel plows have been introduced into Richmond, I am not informed. They are "sine qua non" of the west, and Richmond will not be long without them.

Locomotive conveyances for persons and produce, in those early times, were quite primitive. The lover and his lass, when out for a pleasure ride, must needs have separate horses, the latter upon her side-saddle, or placed on a pillion upon the same horse with her beau, supported in place with one arm partly encircling the body, and her left hand resting on the iron hoop of the pillion. The first one horse wagon introduced into the town, is said to have been imported from Connecticut by Mr. George Perry, the grandfather of Hon. H.P. Clarke. The exact form of this one I am not able to give, but probably it was much the same as those in use at my early recollection, being a frame body with high sides attached to the forward axle by a jointed snipe-bill for a king-bolt. These, for the most part, had no springs either under the body or the seat. The latter was at first a box with an elevated back; the box sometimes elevated at the bottom and resting on the floor of the body, sometimes with a long wooden spring extending the entire length of the body, resting on slats at the end-board; seats resting on braces, with more or less spring, bolted to sills detached from the body but resting on its floor. These were known as grasshopper seats.

Elliptical steel springs were a later invention, having been preceded by the chaise with leathern thorough-brace springs. Before the introduction of one horse wagons, marketing was done by carrying light burdens on horseback, in bags or baskets. Sometimes a sort of dray was extemporized, consisting of two poles placed as thills to the rings of the harness, and extending back and resting on the ground. These were kept at a proper distance from each other, by cross boards, pinned or bolted upon the top, and on which the burden was laid and held in place by cords or wythes. In this way, Hon. Gardner Nichols informed me, that his father transported two Lockshire plows from eight miles beyond Wickford.

(To be continued)