

S - VX



Mr. & Mrs. Carl Richard
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Britland
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Richard
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hamrick
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Bonner
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hawkins

If your name is not here that you are not a member of the Society. The Newsletter is one of your membership privileges.
West Kingston, Rhode Island 02898

NEWSLETTER

Patricia A. Millar, President Carolyn S. Richard, Secretary
Hillsdale Road, West Kingston Shannock Hill, Shannock
02892 02875

Vol. XV, No. 1

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, September 26, 1982 2:00 P. M.
Bell School Museum

Topic: The Lillibridges of Richmond and elsewhere

This summer Ray and Ida Bader journeyed to Ohio to attend the Lillibridge family reunion, there to further persue Ida's in depth research into the Lillibridge genealogy. Both came back quite excited about the material they had to add to their records, new insights into genealogical research, and about new friends they had made. They have agreed to share their experiences with us. If you have any interest in genealogy, are even remotely related to or live on property formerly owned by the Lillibridges, then this is the program for you.

If this is not enough to entice you, there will also be refreshments provided by members of the Executive Board as is usually for the first meeting of the years.

LAST NOTICE FOR NEWSLETTER-----

The following people are paid up for 1982:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Lyle Lillibridge | Jeannie Lees |
| Mrs. Hopwood | Clarence & Jean Handell |
| Marjorie Schunke | Mr. & Mrs. Mason Bennis |
| Mr. & Mrs. Rob Roy Rawlings | Mrs. Earl Smith |
| Mr. & Mrs. Harry Chatalian | Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Stetson |
| Mr. & Mrs. Richard Millar | Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Whitt |
| Mr. & Mrs. Ray Bader | Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Nitz |
| Mr. & Mrs. Roger DeSarro | Mr. & Mrs. Roy Richmond |
| Marjorie Lillibridge | Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Kenyon |

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hawkins
 Mr. & Mrs. Henry Boucher
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hinckley

Mr. & Mrs. Earl Brunskill
 Mr. & Mrs. Edmond Britland
 Mr. & Mrs. Carl Richard

If your name is not here, dues are payable: \$3.00 per family membership, to Mrs. Bruce Whitt, Hillsdale Road, West Kingston 02892! The Newsletter is one of your membership privileges.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual meeting was held June 20, 1982 at the Carolina Volunteer Fire Association Station on Rt. 112.

The covered dish event was excellent as usual with some new recipes for everyone to try. Hank Handell's jonnycakes were better than ever, if possible!

Brief reports heard from all committees indicated a somewhat slow, but progressive year with the May Heritage Month exhibit a well received highlight of the year.

Plans are underway to feature the village of Carolina during our 1983 Heritage Month celebration.

The incumbent slate of officers was re-elected for another year's term.

Lack of interest on the part of Arbutus Garden Club members has left their Memorial Garden (moved to Bell School 2 years ago) in a state of weeds and dead branches. We received a letter from the Garden Club officially abandoning the project. The Society members believed the garden was a nice idea and would add to the atmosphere of the school if kept up. Virginia Arnold volunteered to work on the project. (She and Herb did so during the summer.)

Business done, we were off to the zoo--the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago--under the slide show directorship of Bob Hinckley, former curator.

The Lincoln Zoo

The oldest zoo in North America, Lincoln Park dates from 1866 and is one of the world's major zoos. It is part of the Chicago Park system and is tax supported. Comprised of about 60 acres, Lincoln Park hosts around 6 million visitors a year free of charge. Its personnel are active in conservation, education, and research. The zoo provided characters for the first live animal TV show narrated by Mr. Perkins 30 years ago.

Bob took us on a behind the scenes tour of the zoo, emphasizing that zoo keeping was really basic farming involving feeding, watering, and waste disposal,--but very specialized feeding of individual animals. He spoke of special traits of many of the zoo dwellers. We saw tigers swim, Asian deer little larger than a cocker spaniel dog,

wallabys, Arctic foxes, and gallapagos tortoises. We were reminded as the giant polar bear reared over 7 feet tall on his hind legs that his natural instinct is to consume things that go by!

Elephants are worked with daily so that they can be used to perform labor in the zoo and so that their feet (which require much care) can be tended without tranquilizing the animal. We even saw an elephant fitted with an orthopedic shoe to correct bow-leggedness.

Other animals are "knocked down" with a capture gun when teeth cleaning or medical attention is required. This is a complex procedure involving careful estimates of body weight for dosage formulation, time records, and notations of behavior when the animal is "out." Another usage of the tranquilization technique was demonstrated in the preparation of a 350 pound gorilla for shipment to England. Kasoro was wanted by the lady gorillas in a London zoo, so he was shipped by air in a huge oak and steel re-enforced box equipped for feeding and with an observation window so that his condition could be monitored throughout the flight. Both his flight and his stay in England were huge successes!

Bob's presentation was entertaining and informative. Bob is one example of the many interesting people who live in Richmond. We welcome him into our Society membership.

IN MEMORIUM

June 20, 1909

Earl Smith September 15, 1982
Age 73 years

One of the founding members of the Richmond Historical Society, Earl served on the Executive Board for several years, played a significant role in the acquisition of the Bell Schoolhouse and assisted in its conversion into a museum and meeting place, made the identification signs for the school, and contributed a chapter to DRIFTWAYS IN THE PAST. In his earlier years Earl was a community leader well remembered by many. Having lived on Hillsdale Road most of his life, Earl's final resting place is there also. It was fitting that one interested in history and a lover of nature should be near those things he loved the most. Earl was interred in Historic Cemetery No. 42 on the Hillsdale Road near his home and on family property. He had been caretaker of that cemetery for many years.

Early in September, at the vote of the Executive Board, Earl was presented with a wood and brass plaque which bore the inscription: To Earl Smith in recognition of lasting contributions to the Bell School Museum and the Richmond Historical Society. Mildred and Harry Chatalian and Ray Bader made the presentation.

AND JOY; Congratulations to Lois Spencer and Eddie Britland who were joined in Holy Matrimony in September.

Just received: -- -- --

A notice of an exhibit at the Museum of Rhode Island History at Aldrich House, 110 Benevolent Street, Providence, R. I. September 15, 1982 - January 2, 1983, Tuesday - Saturday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m./ Sundays 1 - 4 p.m.

THE LOOM & THE LASH, Northern Industry and Southern Slavery should be of especial interest to us because it traces the history of the production of Negro Cloth in Rhode Island. I hope that the producers remember that Hillsdale Mills was one of the producers of such cloth for a brief period of time!

In conjunction with the exhibit are a series of lectures:

Monday, October 4, 5:30 P. M.
 "Slavery, the Abolitionists and Change in American Society"
 John L. Myers, Prof. of History, State University of NY, Plattsburgh, at Museum of Rhode Island History, 110 Benevolent St., Providence.

Tuesday, October 19, 8:00 P. M.
 "The Southern Connection" J. Stanley Lemons, Prof. of History, Rhode Island College at Newport Historical Society, 82 Tauro St., Newport.

Thursday, October 21, 7:30 P. M.
 "For the Sake of Commerce": Rhode Island, Slavery and the Textile Industry" Myron Stachiw, Guest Curator, The Loom and the Lash at Slater Mill Historic Site, Roosevelt Ave., Pawtucket.

Tuesday, November 16, 7:30 P. M.
 "Women, Reform, and Abolition" Deborah Van Broekhoven, Prof. of American Studies, Barrington College at Pettaquamscutt Historical Society, Kingston Congregational Church, Kingstown Rd., Kingston.

Bus Tours

All-day bus tours of extant and archaeological mill and mill village sites in Rhode Island formerly involved in the manufacture of negro cloth. Tour lecturers include Dr. Patrick Malone, director, Slater Mill Historic Site, Thomas Leary, Curator, Slater Mill Historic Site, Rowena Stewart, director, Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, and Myron Stachiw, exhibition curator.

Sunday, October 17, 9:00 am - 5:30 pm - buses will depart from and return to Providence, R. I. site.

Sunday, October 24, 9:00 am - 5:30 pm - buses will depart from and return to South County, R. I. site.

INDIAN ARTIFACTS

Robert Jordan
June 30, 1981

Bob's interest in Indian and other early artifacts did not suddenly appear last week! His inspiration to collect and catalog these objects goes back at least 25 years. During those years, exposure to the outdoors by hunting, fishing and trapping have afforded him excellent opportunities to search for these remnants of earlier civilizations.

Indian campsites were often built around a stationary mortar. This was a large stone with a concave indentation in which meal was ground during the winter months. The Indians generally spent three months out of the year at the beach and the remainder at camp (winter months). On Shannock Hill alone there are 5 stationary mortars, and Bob enumerated the site of each one. One of these mortar's has a fire pit because soot remains that has not been washed away by rain. There are also many small artifacts around the mortar. Near Beaver River there is a large rock, not far from one of these mortars that has cryptographs. A mortar was on the site that had been chosen for a new playground near the Charlestown School. The Narragansett Indians saved the mortar from falling victim to a bulldozer. Bob showed us many artifacts from his collection and the first one was a portable mortar weighing approximately 15 to 20 pounds.

Also in the Town of Charlestown, near the Rathskeller restaurant, there was evidence of an "Arrowhead factory" where elderly Indians worked on making arrowheads. Most of the arrowheads from this "factory" were dug and taken to the Peabody Museum in Salem, Massachusetts.

Bob explained, at this point, that he very seldom gives specific locations of relics to too many people. Artifacts are stolen and the less people know the better. However, there are several areas which do contain many relics. Among them is the Great swamp where URI conducted digs several years ago. Area potato fields often yield many relics. A site on Camp Fuller Road has yielded many tools and the grounds of the South Kingstown elementary school as well as the Marchant Farm were rich in Indian artifacts.

Where do you look for artifacts?

- 1) Check garden patches where the earth has been turned.
- 2) Look in potato field. They are usually plowed deeply, turning up many treasures.

Expect to find many artifacts broken.

Arrowheads are quite common, but they require a trained eye. There is a sharp edge all around the stones. Similarly shaped stones are often mistaken for arrowheads. Older arrowheads were well crafted. The more crudely shaped arrowheads are more recent history. Arrowheads were constructed by a "pressure method" which produced a scalloped effect around the edges.

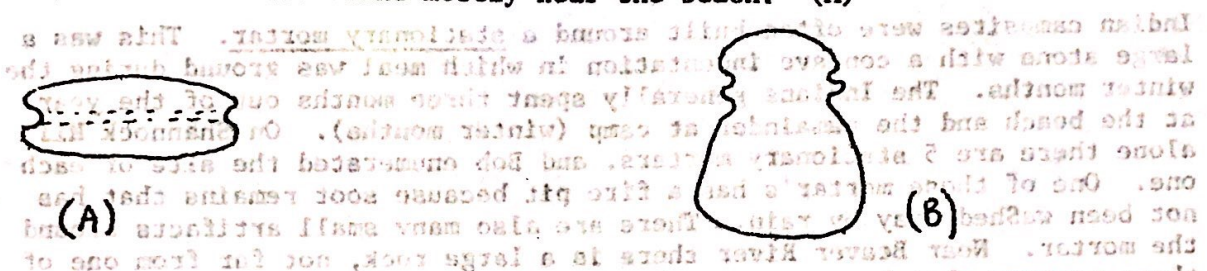
In Rhode Island, shale and quartz were the primary materials for arrowheads and ax heads. Connecticut was the closest location for steel hard flint. The Indians, of course, traded and other axhead and arrowhead materials came from afar. Bob showed us a sandstone arrowhead. We questioned why a soft stone like sandstone would be used for an arrowhead, but we learned that sandstone at the time these Indians lived was not at all a softstone

but was really a very hard substance.

In Bob's shadowbox collection, were examples of knives, drills, arrowheads and a stone bead (which actually had a hole drilled in it by one of the stone drills!) Beads were traded among Indian tribes. This was the influence of Dutch settlers on the Indians.

Bob also showed us a gaming ball which was a smooth ball about 1 1/2" in diameter. The Indian would roll the ball along the ground or kick it with his feet.

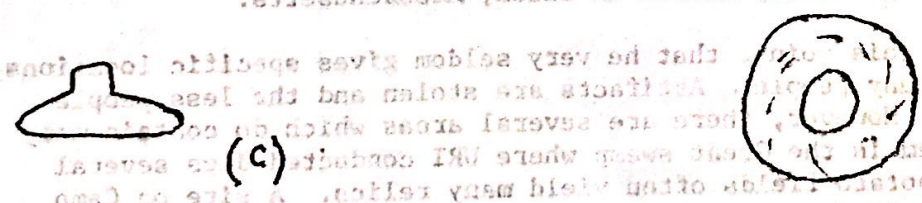
Net weightings, used to anchor fish nets were grooved on both ends to hold the ties. There were found mostly near the beach. (A)



Bob also showed us a perfectly formed granite ax head with two grooves. This find is very rare (B)

Food hammers were blunt hammers used to break down meat fiber and make it a little more palatable.

A pottery smoother was a flat sided rock with a small handle. It was used to do just what it's name say. (C)



A doughnut stone would be a play item. Children would attempt to hit the small hole in the middle of the stone with the point of their spears. (D)

A shiny substance called a lead stone was scraped and mixed with grease to make face paint.

A celt is a dull ax-like hammer used for removing hides from the flesh of dead animals. Bob showed us examples of all of these tools and artifacts.

A very interesting clay pipe was also shown. The design in the pipe was quite artistic (E) When asked if it was a peace pipe, Bob replied that the Indians smoked out of habit, much like modern day man.



The last item to be shown was an artifact owned by Society Member Bob Joslin. It was a very hard ax head, black in color and very smooth and shiny. Bob Jordan declared it to a "very fine piece indeed". Mr. Joslin

15.0A

told us it was found in Crompton by a member of his family.

(Just one last item of business!)

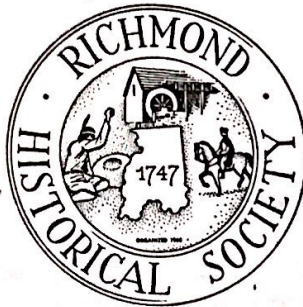
VOTED: on motion of Ray Bader, seconded Bob Jordan to forward \$10.00 and many thanks to the Carolina Volunteer Fire Association for the use of their building.

Attest: Caroline A. Richard
Secretary

9/20/82

Secretary's Note:

The foregoing is a very interesting article that should have been printed last year. The presentation was an interesting and well prepared lecture presented by Society member Bob Jordan. Since June, 1981, our valued member Bob Joslin has passed away.



Wyoming, Rhode Island 02898

NEWSLETTER

15.7

Patricia A. Millar, President
Hillsdale Road, West Kingston
02892
Carolyn S. Richard, Secretary
Shannock Hill, Shannock
02875

Vol. XV, No. 2

CHRISTMAS FIELD TRIP

Thursday evening, December 9, 1982

Meet at the Bell School Museum at 6:45.
Travel to East Greenwich to view the Luminaria

This is a combination riding/walking tour. Developments which will be lighted include the Stone Ridge, Tanglewood, and High Hawk areas. The walking tour will be primarily on Peirce Street with a living nativity scene at the Baptist Church, open house at the historic Varnum House, the Cooperative Extension Center, St. Lukes Episcopal Church, the Kentish Guards Armory, and Swift Gym where refreshments and a craft sale will be available. Music will accompany us on our way, and more. Full details appear on the tickets, with directions on where to go in what order.

The luminaria is an endeavor of the East Greenwich Civic Club, and an ambitious endeavor when one considers that 5000 candles will be lighted that evening.

If perchance you cannot go on Thursday, the event will be repeated on Friday evening.

Cost is \$2.00 per ticket. If you wish to accompany our caravan, please call me at 539-7676 with the number in your party by December 4 so that I can purchase the correct number of tickets.

This should be a delightful evening and one which leaves us feeling the glow of the Christmas season.

Story and Background of a Luminaria Caravan

In Mexico, each December, the story of Mary and Joseph's search for lodging comes to life. The familiar Bible story is re-enacted for nine consecutive nights in the festive "posada," meaning inn or lodging in Spanish. This observance was introduced to the Indians in Mexico by Spanish missionaries. It soon became imbued with a sprit of fun and eventually left the church and began to be celebrated in the homes. The posadas have become a community affair with friends, relatives and neighbors. Each person in the procession carries a candle or paper lantern with a candle inside. The "pilgrims" knock and ask for shelter and the response is "no room" until they arrive at the home designated for prayer and sociability.

This custom spread to America's Southwest, where on Christmas Eve bonfires lighted the paths to churches and shrines "for Mary and Joseph en route to Bethlehem." Luminarias, candles in paper bags anchored by sand, are intended to symbolically "light the way for the Christ Child."

A paper bag is opened and a cuff folded down one inch three times, "in the name of the Father, (one fold) the Son (second fold) and the Holy Spirit (third fold)." About one coffee can of sand is poured into the bottom of the bag. The candle is placed in the sand. The bags are set outside and then lighted to spread a lovely warm glow and to mark the pathway to the house of welcome.

NOTES

And speaking of Christmas, the Bell School notepaper would make a great token gift for a friend who lives away or perhaps a stocking stuffer for someone nearer the home hearth. They sell 10 to a package for \$2.50 and for your convenience, are available at the Town Hall.

ARCHIVES MOVED

One breezy Saturday, Ray Bader, Eddie Britland, Carolyn Richard, Patty Millar, and Eleanor Smith flexed their arms and moved the Historical Society archives from the vault in the Town Hall to the Bell School, filing cabinets, book racks, and maps files, and all. The major reason for this move to higher ground was to get away from the deteriorating dampness which prevails in the town hall vault. The vault had been cleaned, you remember, and Carolyn and Ida Bader had cleaned much of the historical material which was not in cabinets. However, that which was in the file cabinets was also damp. No, more than damp, some things were actually wet and the penmanship obliterated. A few things were in such poor condition that they cannot be deciphered well enough to copy. Very few, however; the rest just needs drying out.

Somewhat familiar with some of the materials, former archivist Eleanor Smith took some things to her home to spread and dry. She will be working with Carolyn to get some order into the boxes of things which went into Bell School. The School, of course is far from ideal as far as storage is concerned because one needs a step ladder and agility to get into the loft storage and we do not want to take away from the building as a museum with cartons of things not properly displayed, but we know the materials were being damaged where they were.

You may well ask what is happening to the Town Records stored in the vault. Most of them are in book form, protected somewhat by the covers and they were all professionally cleaned so do not appear to be in terribly bad condition. The situation there is one that must be addressed, however, before too much more time goes by.

STAGECOACH HOUSE TOUR

On Sunday, October 24th members of the Richmond Historical Society and of the Richmond Preservation Commission were welcomed into the Stagecoach House (formerly Dawley Tavern) in Wyoming by guide Kathy Fiske. The House is now owned by Sue and Guy Rogers who operate a jewelry retail (at wholesale prices) outlet there and

who are renovating, dating, and researching archaeologically the history of the construction of the building. The original waiting room is being restored, with the lath, plaster, woodwork, wainscotting, and hearth being retained where possible. The flooring is tongue and grooved, a fact which places it and the wood carved mantle of this 1720 room in the Victorian era, indicating an earlier restoration. The window frames are painted imitation wood grain. The windows, early if not original, are 12 over 12 panes on the front of the building and 6 over 6 on the river side. Just off this sitting room is a small

room which was presumed to be a birthing or young mother's room. There are several bits of evidence that the building was repaired and older doors, etc., replaced by newer styles.

"A study of the basement of this structure provides us with a clearer understanding of the tavern's past. The most outstanding feature here is the enormous chimney base. Structures from this period often were constructed of oversized elements of stone and wood. There is only one fireplace at the basement level of the chimney. It is composed of brick and granite block. A large granite lintel rests above the fireplace opening. To the left of the opening is a bee hive over. The type of brick used here further indicates the vintage of the structure to be Federal." The fireplace base measures 10-12 feet square. On the back side of the fire place is a cave-like area large enough for a full size person to enter. The actual use of this space is under much speculation. Lath marks on the beams indicate that this cooking kitchen was at one time a finished area. There is evidence that fire caused damage in the area at some point in time.

Traveling further into the dark depths of the basement, we stepped down into a large stone walled room which had access only from other rooms. The ceiling was about 10 feet high. We felt very much the atmosphere of the Halloween season in here, and let our imaginations run with speculation about how this area was used, also. We were told that there was yet another similar room further on, but our flashlights gave dim illumination and we were to a one rather eager to emerge back into the sunlight! Another point of interest was the base of fresh water shells which lay under the floor boards at the rear of the fireplace. They were the floor surface for sometime before boards were added, I suppose, and readily available from the river bed at the time.

We next ascended to the second floor where the guest rooms and ballroom provided for rest and recreation. The ballroom was of Victorian design indicating that it was added in the 1800s. It had a rounded ceiling and was decorated with gold leaf. Many of us remembered it well from a Christmas pageant we had there a number of years ago when Yvonne Dawley served hot spiced cider from the wood stove in the center of the room and the rafters literally shook under the cadence of our Virginia Reel. We were saddened to see the damage which had been done by the fire which broke out there from electrical wiring in the mid-1970s. The bed rooms were all fairly small and uniform, each marked with the room number engraved on a brass plate over the door. Of special interest was the door which opened not into a bedroom, but into a room which housed the large chimney. There was ample space for one to walk all the way around this stone structure. The south east corner room was much larger than the others and overlooked the falls. This was the bridal suite and must have been a very pleasant room, indeed.

Kathy Fiske was quite excited about the work which was being done there. And we shared her excitement because having people who are interested in promoting Richmond history is such a valuable asset to the town. This kind of activity, the revelation of the significance of our villages in the formation of the town as it is today, helps people develop pride in their surroundings and pride leads to carefully planned, prosperous development for the future.

The Rogers' have recently purchased the Wood River Inn property, so we adjourned to that establishment where Sue Rogers greeted us and further enlightened us as to their plans. We were served hot cheese squares and coffee. This was all true, old-fashioned hospitality, and much appreciated because it was a raw day.

The sections of this narration which appear in quotes are from a booklet prepared by the Rogers: "Documented History of the Stagecoach House (first deeding 1796) 20 Main Street, Wyoming, Rhode Island." This booklet tells the whole story of the Stagecoach House as it is now known to this point in the research. It is interesting reading.

HERITAGE MONTH

Plans are getting well underway for an exhibit to be held during May, Heritage Month. This year the Society is going to concentrate on the Village of Carolina. Pictures, artifacts, and anecdotes are being requested from all members. These will be used to reconstruct more of the Town's past history. The plans at the moment include the placement of this exhibit within the village itself, so that people who come to see the past can be surrounded by the present and perhaps better orient themselves. You will be hearing more about this as the weeks pass.

TREASURY

Our present Treasurer, Pegg Whitt, has invested some of our savings in a higher interest paying account. Already we are seeing this to be an advantageous move; one which may bring the needed repairs to the School closer.

DRIFTWAYS TO THE PAST

These are now definitely collector's items. We have sold just about the last salvagable copy. This is in one way unfortunate, because we still get requests from previous town residents who would like to add this bit of history to their family bookshelves, yet we are delighted at the continued interest. Maybe it's time to think about publishing a sequel?

SOMETHING OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

The Bristol Historical and Preservation Society is sponsoring a House and Garden Tour on Saturday, May 14, 1983 from 10 A. M. to 4 P. M. Featured will be apporixately ten to twelve beautiful homes (and gardens) representing all periods in Bristol's history. Home base will be the Bristol Historical Society Headquarters, which is housed in the old Bristol County jail built from the ballast of sailing ships. Restrooms (not outhouses!) tickets and information will be available at the Society, which is at 48 Court Street.

The tour is sure to be fascinating and informative to everyone interested in architecture, furniture, history, interior design and gardens and landscaping. Tickets will be available beginning April 1. The cost is \$8.00 purchased before the tour and \$10.00 purchased on the day of the tour. Mail orders will be received from now until May 7 to insure that tickets can be forwarded to you in time. Checks should be made payable to Bristol Historical Society, c/o Mrs. Thomas Adams, 130 High Street, Bristol, RI 02809.

This sounds like something worth discussing at our March meeting. Perhaps is there is enough interest, we can buy a block of tickets, and car pool a group.

This is the first of our series of Richmond Profiles, a feature which I hope will continue over the years, so that we all, old and new to Town, may know and appreciate one another better.

A PROFILE

OF

MARION D. HAWKINS

by

Eleanor H. Smith

Marion Charleotte was the fifth child of George Lincoln Dawley and Charlotte BarberDawley of Richmond. Her birthplace was a weathered-gray shingled Cape Cod style house in central Richmond. The house was taken down some years ago but the site remains, marked by a small grove of lilacs, about 200 yards south of Route 138, not far from the residence of Roy and Verna Pearson. Marion's birthdate was October 1, 1906.

She recalls, "I must have been six years old when I started to school at Beaver River School. Like my three brothers and sister before me, I walked to and from school. The road was dirt, then--all the way. It pretty much followed Route 138 except that it swung down into what is now the driveway to the Newman Farm. From that dooryard, it turned right, came out at Beaver River (where the bridge is now) and went up the hill at Beaver River Road. We followed that some distance until we came to a road on the left; not too far on that road was the school. We used to say it was five miles; I'm not sure it was quite that far. My brother, Linc (Lincoln) walked with me and a boy named Orrin Lewis, came down from Hillsdale and walked with us, too."

"After a couple of years or so, a little girl walked with us. As we came over the hill on Beaver River Road, there was a farmhouse on the left. A widow, Mrs. Holley, (I think her name was Catherine), lived there with her daughter Mildred. Mildred was darling---three years old. She used to watch us out the window and wanted so bad to go to school with us. The teacher thought she was so cute that she was allowed to attend, after that, any time she wanted to. School kept year 'round; the school day ran from 9:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M., but in the winter we were allowed to leave at 3:00 because we had so far to go and had to be home before dark."

"Charles J. Greene was Superintendent of Schools at that time. He did fancy penmanship and made out many of the diplomas. Teachers didn't stay very long. My first teacher was Mary Brown - a lovely woman. Next came Lizzie Kenyon (M. Lizzie Kenyon). She retired after a short time. Phoebe Richmond taught us for a while, then Edith Durelius, who later married my cousin, Leslie Dawley. Carrie Brown (Mrs. Steven Brown) stayed the longest time; she was very strict."

"Some of the other pupils attending were: Charlie Sales from Hillsdale, Muriel Barney, Benny and Annie James, Gladys Larned, George

Cornell, Nellie and Dorothy Brown, children of teacher Carrie Brown.

When Beaver River School was closed; we pupils were sent to Carolina School. I don't really know why Beaver River School was closed. I s'pose it was for lack of pupils - not enough children were attending to keep it open. After a short while at Carolina, we went to Wyoming School. I graduated from there.

I wanted to go to high school and my parents decided I would go. I should be the first of my family to attend. But tuition and train fare had to be paid for - yes, train fare.

From the time I was able, I helped my father with farm work. After Archie, Nellie, Roy and Linc left home to be on their own, I worked outside more than in the house. I raised a flock of Wyandottes, around 25, and sold eggs. Once in a while I sold a chicken. How did I start the flock? My father had Plymouth Rock and Rhode Island Red chickens. He wanted me to have something special so he got some fertile Wyandotte eggs and set them under his hens to hatch. The baby chicks were given to me.

My father often did all kinds of work, such as carpentry and various types of agriculture, for Mr. Buyens and Marie Praett, who owned a neighboring farm. Marie raised sheep and every time an ewe had twins, Marie gave me the weaker one, until I had maybe a dozen or so. Of course, these grew to sheep and had lambs yearly until I had quite a flock. My father and I sold this flock and my Wyandotte hens to pay for my high school expenses."

(to be continued in the next NEWSLETTER)

Editor's Note: May of you, I am sure, have friends, relatives, and neighbors who have contributed to the growth of Richmond. We would like to hear about all of them. Anyone wishing to submit an interview, please do so. If you know of someone to recommend, but do not feel that interviewing and recording is your forte, please let us know so that we can include all those who have history to share. Thank you. Genealogies will be included with the profile.



Wyoming, Rhode Island 02898

NEWSLETTER

Patricia A. Millar, President
Hillsdale Road, West Kingston
02892

Vol. XV, No. 4

Page 15

May is Heritage Month in Rhode Island and as has become the custom with the Richmond Historical Society, we are going to have an exhibit and open house at the Bell School Museum. We are working around several hardships this year, but challenge breeds creativity so I'm sure there will be pleasant surprises for all of you who come to see us at the school. The first hardship is of course the fact that all the archives are now in the school building and we must for the time being work around them. This has become more fun than a problem. The second hardship is that Carolyn Richard found it necessary to resign from the Society. As archivist she has in the past been the primary figure in setting up our exhibits. The third hardship, or rather, disappointment, is that the Rhode Island Heritage Commission awarded us only \$75.00 this year for exhibit materials. This may well have been our own fault because of a delay in submitting budget, but the delay was unavoidable due to the fact that we had several alternatives of exhibit location which needed to be investigated prior to establishing an events budget.

All things withstanding, we are excited to announce our.....

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, May 22, 1983

2:00 P. M.

Richmond Town Hall

This will be the kick-off for our exhibit on the Village of Carolina. A special feature of this meeting will be "Remember When," A slide show and talk about history as we see it through costume as it can only be given by Helen Lundberg, Clothing and Home Environment Specialist for Cooperative Extension at the University of Rhode Island Department of Resource Development. Mrs. Lundberg designed this program for the Bicentennial and it has received much acclaim from both men and women. She has updated it to the continued pleasure of her audiences. This is another show you should not miss.

Following the show, the Carolina Exhibit will be opened at the Bell School. The CAROLINA EXHIBIT will feature a selection of photographs from our extensive Florence Hoxsie Collection as well as street scene and artifacts from the village that was named for Caroline Hazard.

ADDITIONAL EXHIBIT HOURS: Bell School Museum will be open also Wednesday, May 25 from 1:00 P. M. to 4:00 P. M. and again on Sunday, May 29, same times. Yall come and bring your friends, hear now?

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Special note: because of time and space limitations in this issue, the continued Profile series will appear in the June newsletter.

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A BACKWARD GLANCE.....

The March meeting was well attended by both members and guests. Several copies of the "Passing of the Backhouse" were distributed. This amusing poem lamented days gone by when the outhouse was an important part of everyone's lives. Member Johanna Wolke read the poem aloud and I suggest that if you have not read this piece or have forgotten it, it's worth a trip to your local library!

Virginia Williams of Hope Valley shared her slide collection and thoughts about the good ole' outhouse. Her collection is pictures of outhouses mostly from the Hope Valley area. Virginia accompanied her presentation with a background of recorded fiddle music and a descriptive narrative of each of the outhouses. Some were of particular architectural interest. Pat Millar's slides were outhouses in the Hillsdale/Tug Hollow section of Town. She included many descriptive details of the interiors of the structures and some of the accessories that most outhouses had. Several members had outhouse yarns to tell--to the delight of everyone. Carolyn Richard had prepared an attractively written and illustrated synopsis of THE SPECIALIST by Chic Sale which I include here for everyone's reading pleasure.

\$ DUES \$ ARE \$ DUES\$

Your membership and participation is valued. Another year has rolled around and membership renewal time is here once again. Take a minute now to fill out the attached membership form and send it along to Peggy Whitt, Hillsdale Road, West Kingston, R. I. 02892. Take another minute and enroll a friend, either as a gift subscription to this Newsletter, or someone who will be coming to the next meeting with you! We are still holding firm at our \$3.00 membership fee for the entire family.



Wyoming, Rhode Island 02898

Newsletter

Patricia A. Millar, President
Hillsdale Road, West Kingston
02892

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ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, June 26, 1983 6:00 P. M.

Pot Luck Supper

Carolina Volunteer Fire Association House
Route 112

By starting a little later in the day, we thought you would have more Sunday time to work and/or play! We will begin with supper (please bring a dish to pass and your own table service). Clarence "Hank" Handell will be on hand again to make his famous jonny cakes, I'm delighted to say. Coffee and tea will also be provided.

A brief meeting will be held immediately after supper, followed by a special program. ELECTION OF OFFICERS will be held, with nominations from the floor welcomed. Please give this a great deal of consideration, because the future of the Society depends upon your participation, either as an officer or in the election of its leadership.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Herbs are becoming increasingly popular, both as low sodium, low calorie seasoners for food, and as bases for special, decorative gardens. Mrs. Marie Peterman, Master Gardener with URI Cooperative Extension, has been making a special study of formal herb gardens and has graciously consented to share her findings with us, illustrated by a selection of colored slides. This program may be of particular interest to those of you who have restored older homes (or are in the process of doing so) and would like to landscape in keeping with the period of the house. Or, if

you are like me, you just enjoy seeing the results of someone else's labor! At any rate, this promises to be an enjoyable evening and, remember, the whole family is welcome.

HERITAGE MONTH in Carolina Village

It never ceases to amaze me how interesting our exhibits are with the few things that we have; and that is because we always have more on file than we anticipate at the outset of our projects! We invariably start putting things back for use at another time before we get done.

I would like to thank our archivist, Eleanor Smith, and Peggy Whitt for the work they did at assembling and disassembling the exhibit. Ray and Ida Bader were of course also on hand to help get the school in readiness for the show, both inside and out. Did you notice that the signs had a face lift? You can all thank Ray for that.

One of the best aspects of doing an exhibit is that we always seem to gain more than we share.....nearly everyone who comes to see the display has added information to contribute, all of which gets duly noted and added to our files, we meet new people, learn more genealogy, and get new members whom we heartily welcome. There are always those from out-of-state who stop by to learn a little more about the place they are visiting. This is rewarding.

Heritage Month began with our regular public meeting at which Helen Lundberg, Clothing and Home Environment Specialist for Cooperative Extension at the University of Rhode Island College of Resource Development appeared in a long black accordinian pleated skirt, beige blouse overlaid with ecru lace and featuring modified leg-o-mutton sleeves, and a straw garden hat festooned with silk roses. She explained how anyone could quickly assemble a Victorian costume with things that might be already in the closet or that could be purchased economically. She then presented a slide show and talk entitled "Remember When?" The costumes shown ranged in period from 1890 to 1940. Mrs. Lundberg pointed out features in both men's and women's costumes which pinpointed the year. It was rather fun to learn that it was considered naughty for women to wear under-pants prior to 1890 and that the "teddy" introduced at the turn of the century was considered to be quite risque. Many proper necklines were quite low cut, however. Theater, sports, and archaeological discoveries (King Tut's tomb) all had an effect on clothing styles or designs. Legislation restricting the amount of fabric that went into a garment during World War II had its effect on style. As Helen finished off with a picture

of a mini-skirted girl, we were reminded how quickly the fashion pendulum swings forward and back again. We then spent a few minutes with some catalog and newspaper illustrations, trying to "Remember When" those styles and those prices coincided with what dates. Several in attendance could indeed Remember When.

We then helped ourselves to Heritage Month cake and went to the Bell School to see the photographs of early Carolina and its people. The museum was open two additional afternoons during the week. About thirty people visited the exhibit. We want to again thank the Rhode Island Heritage Commission for helping to further our work by contributing to the project.

There is a need to assemble that Victorian costume.....

VICTORIAN GALA LAWN PARTY

presented for your pleasure by the Narragansett Chamber of Commerce under a tent at Veteran's Memorial Park, Saturday, June 18th, 1983 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of THE TOWERS, four to six o'clock. Music by Hugo Basso, fun for the family, champagne and hors d'oeuvres, soda and popcorn. \$5.00 per adult, \$2.00 for children. Band concert 7:00 - 9:00 P. M.

GO FIND THE JUNE, 1983 copy of YANKEE MAGAZINE. On the back page there is yet another view of a South County backhouse; another aspect of the "Necessary" that really requires contemplation!

MARION DAWLEY HAWKINS

A Profile

by

Eleanor H. Smith

(continued from March Newsletter)

"I attended Westerly High School; to get there, I had to travel by train. There was a New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad station in Carolina. My older sister, Nellie, was married and lived in one of the mill houses in Carolina so I lived with her and went to and from high school on the train from that station. With other students from the village, I walked the mile to the station in the morning and back at night. We thought nothing of walking in those days.

When Nellie's family moved to Hope Valley; I continued to live with them during the school year but took a train on the Wood River Switch line which started from the center of Hope Valley and met the NY, NH & Hartford main line at Wood River Junction. We changed to a train on the main line and made a stop at Bradford before reaching our destination at Westerly.

Since I was the first of my family to attend high school; I entered, not knowing what to expect. I was very green. They asked what 'course' I wanted to take. I didn't understand what that meant so they asked, 'Don't you know what you want to be?' I thought I wanted to be a teacher so they put me in the 'college course' and I had to take Latin. I couldn't make head nor tail of it so I changed to the 'general course.' The studies were: algebra, English, Spanish, French, American History, art; about the same as the college course only without Latin. There was no one before me to tell me what high school was. When Alice and Verna went after me, they knew to take the 'business course.'

During summers, I helped on the farm. One summer, I worked in the finishing room at Shannock Mill.

I was seventeen when I graduated from high school in 1925..

My work after that was still to help on the farm, doing outside work as well as some household chores, but I did jobs for other people as they came along. I did domestic work and tended the sick. At that time, Fred and Elizabeth Smith had a growing family and, for awhile, I stayed with them during the week, going home weekends. I helped to care for the children and also helped with the housework.

One day my sister-in-law Mildred and I were on a bus going to Westerly to 'the show' (which was the big entertainment in those days); a silent movie with live piano accompaniment and vaudeville. There was a man on the bus who interested me. Mildred dared me to go sit with him. I took up her dare and did! His name was Paul Hawkins. This first step started a romance which led to marriage on February 27, 1927.

My mother wanted us to be married at home 'because,' she said, 'none of the others have ever been married at home.' So we were married in the parlor by my uncle, Reverend Warren Dawley, with the immediate families present. We didn't have a honeymoon; we just went to our apartment in Hope Valley on High Street in a big stone house.

We lived there awhile, then we rented an apartment in my brother Archie's house next to the Hope Valley Baptist Church. In this house, on June 12, 1932, our son - Lowell Bryce Hawkins - was born.

Sometime before Lowell was born; Paul cut his leg terribly while cutting wood. It was so bad, he was in bed a long time. During this time, I got a job at the telephone office across the street as an operator. This was the era when the customer dialed 'Operator,' she answered, 'Number plee-ase,' the

customer gave the desired number and the operator made the connection. I worked six-hour shifts, sometimes all day on Sundays. I worked there twenty-five years - I guess you call that my career.

We came home to live with my folks until Paul's leg healed. When he could go to work, he got a job at the Box Factory in Wyoming.

For a while, we lived in an apartment in a house across from Browning's store in Hope Valley.

Eventually, we bought a small piece of land from Harold House which was adjacent to my folks' property, but we didn't build on it right away. When the road out here was put through (Rte. 138), the State Highway Department asked if they could build on the property a small building for an office. We said, 'yes, they could,' and when they were finished using the building they gave it to us. There was a good-sized living room with a kitchenette at one end. We added a lean-to on the back for a bedroom. Paul drove a point into the ground and got water at about ten feet! He attached a hand pump - that was our water supply! That became our home; Lowell was only about two or three years old then. We called it The Shanty. Later, we moved it nearer to the road and built a small building near the northwest corner of The Shanty. This was a one-room roadside stand with showcases where we sold cigarettes, candy, ice cream, soda, bread, produce from my father's farm and handcrafts such as braided rugs, aprons, potholder, etc. Another well point was driven here, only slightly deeper than the first one on the previous site. The roadside stand was my hobby - Paul was working on the NY, NH, & Hartford Railroad tracks then. I was working part-time at the telephone office but some of the family always seemed available to take care of the stand and my mother watched Lowell.

Anyone who worked for the Railroad could travel on the lines free; that's how we got to take our first big trip. We went to Paul's home in Tennessee.

Paul was still working on the Railroad when the 1938 hurricane hit. He started home with the car but had driven only a short way when he had to abandon it and walk home. I had gone to Hope Valley for groceries and was just starting home when the wind began to rise. I hurried home and managed to get there, but found that a big white pine had fallen right across The Shanty and smashed it in. Lowell had not come home from school so Paul walked to Richmond School and found the children safely in the basement, though some buses had started out before the wind got so bad."

(to be continued in the next Newsletter)