



VOL. XI No. 1 \* P.A. Millar, West Kingston, R.I. 02892 \* JULY 1978

ANNUAL MEETING  
June 20, 1978

Carolina Fire Station--Twenty-one members and two guests were present when acting president, Patricia A. Millar called the meeting to order. Those present had enjoyed a delicious covered dish supper which included the usual exchange of recipes and Chief Hank Handell's super Rhode Island jonny cakes.

After-dinner entertainment was provided by members of the Southern Rhode Island Dance Academy, Inc., who performed tap and jazz dance numbers in colorful costume. The dance academy is one of the very successful and desirable home industries developing in our community.

Officer and Committee reports were heard after the call to order: Treasurer, Charles Edmonds reported his books were audited and found correct.

Herb Arnold, Auditor, reported that Charles' books were in good condition and correct. Virginia Arnold had thoughtfully composed a card of thanks and greetings in recognition of ten years of service which was passed among the members for signing, then presented to Charlie with a hearty round of applause for his faithful service.

Archivist, Carolyn Stoner, reported she had received 348 copies of Driftways into the Past from Lucy Tootell. A total of 536 copies have been sold. All expenses are now paid and books sold from now on will result in a profit to the Society. Lucy also placed some paper documents and the 1876 dime found on the original Bell School site in the archives in the Town Hall vault. Carolyn would like some strong-arm help in moving some shelves in the vault to make the archives more accessible.

Arts and Crafts Fair and Sunshine committees reported. See elsewhere in this Newsletter:

The Nominating Committee recommended a proposed slate. Because request for further nominations from the floor was met with silence, motion was made, seconded, and carried that the secretary cast one vote for the recommended slate. Your officers for 1978-79 are:

Now Officers

Patricia A. Millar, President  
Roland Morgan, Vice-President  
Jane Markham, Secretary  
Charles Edmonds, Treasurer  
Ida Bader, Priscilla Phillips, Members-At-Large

Henry Boucher continues as a Member-At-Large, having served one year of his current 3-year term. Henry has served on the board for ten years, making many valuable contributions. Thank you, Henry.

Dr. William D. Metz, Professor of History at U. R. I., brought meetings from the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society, and from the South County Museum. He spoke of the importance of local history research and collection, as a clue to the past, a path to the present, and a guide to the future. Although at times local history may seem insignificant, it is an important part of the whole. It is important for us to understand the social and cultural conditions, the fears and ambitions which lead to any event in history in order to understand underlying causes and interpret them into predictions for the future. One important source of information as to who was living where when is telephone directories along with other personal and public records, according to Bill. Household utensils are valuable clues to lifestyles. If such items are to be collected, each collection must be done with care, be well recorded and documented, and accurately interpreted.

It was with such a charge that Dr. Metz installed the new officers of the Richmond Historical Society. He then turned to the membership body and charged them with assisting the officers in their work with every possible resource.

Patricia Millar then resumed the Chair as president, and announced that in keeping with past tradition, the outgoing president could be thanked with a gift. Lucy had been sent a dozen red roses and a note of appreciation.

The Carolina Fire Company was voted a gift of \$5.00 in appreciation for the use of the hall and the unofficial committee of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Handell and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Arnold were thanked for preparing the hall.

*→ Come To The Fair ←*

\* \* \* \* at our exciting new location in the Bell School yard on Saturday, July 15, from 11:00 to 5:00. Rain date: July 16th.

Acting Chairwoman, Virginia Arnold, announced that by popular request the Fair must go on, featuring local crafts persons with items for sale, working demonstrations, and a large food sale table of which you all have been asked to contribute. The Fair promises to be a successful event with at least a dozen tables of items to choose for summer souvenirs, birthday, or advance Christmas gifts.

The most exciting feature will be an exhibit by the Society inside Bell School. Come and see what we have been accomplishing and bring your friends.

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

At the Executive Board Meeting held Tuesday evening, July 27th at President Millar's home, the following chairpeople were appointed or reappointed:

Arts and Crafts Fair	Mildred Chatalian
Bell School	Raymond Bader
Cook Book	Mildred Chatalian
Historic Cemeteries	Carolyn Stoner
Membership	Charles Edmonds
Program	Roland Morgan
Sign	-dispensed with for time being
Sunshine	Eleanor Smith

Newsletter - Virginia K. Arnold has graciously concented to the Newsletter Editor. Any news items, aecedotes, suggestions, requests which you would like included in the Newsletter may be ected to her at Usequepaugh Road, West Kingston, R. I. 02892 or -3519.

Sunshine - If you, or if you know of another member who would reciate a note of cheer, thanks, or congratulations, please contact anor H. Smith at Long Pond Lodge, West Kingston, R. I. 02892 or at -7683.

We are happy to report that Mrs. Roland Morgan is doing nicely lowing surgery last month.

#### MUSEUM SURVEY

There have been diverse opinions as to the ultimate operation of Bell School Museum. Ideas have ranged from having it be an example a one-room school dating somewhere in the late 1800's to having it ve as a one-room school museum featuring changing minor exhibits.

Al Klyberg, Director of the Rhode Island Historical Society ongly suggested that the building be interpreted as it was origin- y used -- a community meeting hall and a one-room center for cation. This interpretation would allow the museum to be furnished arranged as a one-room school, and also serve as a background for nging exhibits and public educational programs, particularly for ool children from the nearby Richmond Elementary School. Bill n, Chief of the Division of Parks and Recreation concurred with desirability of interpretation of use rather than structure.

After waiting so many years for the building to be restored, basis on considerations such as these may seem sudden, however, the use of the museum is extremely vital to the way in which the erior of the building is restored. One interpretation would dictate toration to an exact point in time, another interpretation would tate restoration in keeping with previous restorations which took ce during one hundred years of use.

How do you "see" our museum developing? Your consideration of attached questionnaire would be greatly appreciated. The Bell ool Committee will proceed with the restoration work according to desired use for the building. Whether you are near, or far away, s is an opportunity for your to have a voice in the workings of Society. The sooner we hear from you, the sooner the Committee resume work. Thank you!

Those of you who were present at the Public Meeting and responded the questionnaire at that time, need not fill it out again. We e read your responses carefully, tabulated them, and made note of itional suggestions, all of which were good --except the one that d we should paint it red! The twenty responses we have received date were very helpful to the Executive Board in making some of its isions on the 27th. Thank you for giving so much thought to this.

\* \* \* \* \*

tory Lesson (con't. from page.4) . many objects. Some boxes e constructed in this shape. The outer edge of the oval is out- ed with a cord or rope. Within this endless loop the insignia is cribed. Thus:--the king rules all that the sun circles.

Researched by Eleanor H. Smith

## BELL SCHOOL MUSEUM SURVEY

Please respond by return mail

The Bell School was in continuous use as a school from 1826 to 1934. During part of that time it also served as a community meeting place.

How do you envision the Bell School as a Museum to function?

Please circle the options which best represent your views.

1. As an example of a one-room school restored to a specific period in time, to be viewed exclusively as such.

\_\_\_\_\_ preferred time period.

Reasons for making this particular time choice:

2. To be restored as stated above with an occasional small side exhibit as an added attraction.
3. As an example of a one-room school restored to its original use as a school and meeting place to include presentation of special programs.

Special programs should include

\_\_\_\_\_ slide shows, lectures, and/or demonstrations to individual elementary classes from Richmond School

\_\_\_\_\_ spelling or math bees

\_\_\_\_\_ afternoon or evening adult programs including travelogues, slide shows, lectures, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ arts and crafts workshops (of a nature which would interfere with the school room as an exhibit in itself)

\_\_\_\_\_ arts and crafts shows

\_\_\_\_\_ special exhibits of articles from the Historical Society collection

\_\_\_\_\_ other (specify)

4. Do you consider your museum to be a

\_\_\_\_\_ year-round operation

\_\_\_\_\_ summer attraction

\_\_\_\_\_ week-end attraction

5. Other suggestions or comments:

MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING FOR YEAR  
1978 - 79

The following people have paid their dues for the coming year. Those who have not paid by September 1, 1978 will not receive a Newsletter in September. Remember, dues are only \$3.00 and Charles Edmonds, Carolina, R. I. will be available to receive them during the summer months!

Herbert and Virginia Arnold  
Raymond and Ida Bader  
Hope Blaine  
Edmond Britland  
Paul Broomfield  
Henry Boucher  
William Carpenter  
Donald E. Crandall  
Frank and Yvonne Dawley  
Charles Edmonds  
Valerie Felt  
Clarence and Jean Handell  
Paul and Marion Hawkins  
Emily and Louise Hoxsie  
Elsie and Inez Jordan  
Phillip Lillibridge  
Harold and Jane Markham  
Gordon and Joyce McElhaneay  
Richard and Patricia Millar  
Mr. and Mrs. Roland Morgan

Ethel K. Perry  
Robert and Priscilla Phillips  
Roy Richmond  
Marjorie Schunke  
Earl and Eleanor Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Steadman  
William and Johanna Stetson  
Carolyn Stoner  
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Tusayk\*  
Viola Ulm  
Marjorie Warner  
Edwin C. Whitford  
Marcus L. Whitford  
Clyde and Jean Wiley  
Martha Stoner  
Earl and Helen Brunskill

\* Should read Stanley and Marilyn Jusczyk

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Congratulations to Oliver H. Stedman on the publication of his book, A STROLL THROUGH MEMORY LANE. An autograph party is to be held Tuesday, July 11 from 3-5 P. M. at the Peace Dale Library. This is a limited edition, so act quickly to get your copy. The book is also on sale at the Kingston Press, Inc. on Rt. 138, West Kingston. Oliver has done extensive research, thereby contributing greatly to preservation of local history in South County. This particular book contains the story of the Wreck at Richmond Switch which took place in our own town. We wish Oliver much success; we are proud to have him as a member of our Society.

TODAY'S HISTORY LESSON

The word, "cartouche" has come up several times during our meetings and an explanation has been offered each time, each time different. There seemed, however, to be some agreement that the word referred to boxes in which cartridges were carried. Here is some authentic enlightenment on the subject.

The cartouche boxes carried by the colonial soldiers were blocks of wood with holes bored in them. The holes were of a size to hold cylinders of paper into which powder and ball were packed. A packed cylinder was then loaded into the soldier's gun. Leather covered the wooden block as well as providing a cover for the contents. It is recorded that some of these boxes issued in Richmond were marked with "!".

Cartouche is a French word meaning an ornamental tablet for an inscription. In the study of Egyptology, the word refers to the elongated oval insignia of members of royal families which appears on

Patricia Millar, President  
West Kingston, R. I. 02892

Virginia Arnold, Editor  
Usquepaugh, R. I. 02892

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NEXT MEETING - Tuesday, September 19 at 7:30 p.m.

A tour of the Bell School will be followed by the business meeting, a slide program on the school project, and a reception for new members in the Town Hall. Refreshments will be served by the Executive Committee.

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Dear Members;

The autumnal equinox is upon us, heralding the end of summer labor/leisure and the last blush of harvesting, be it a harvesting of garden labor, wild fruits, recreational renewal of body and mind, or things historical.

Whatever our bent, no matter how seemingly insignificant, we all created history, leaving in our wake some documentary evidence of our lives.

With this thought in mind, I welcome you back to a new season of programs sponsored by your Historical Society. The Executive Board and your program chairman, Vice-president Roland Morgan, have come up with some good ideas to intermingle education with fun and fellowship. There is a particularly exciting surprise awaiting you at our next meeting. I look forward to having our established membership join me in welcoming our new members.

Yours in history,  
Patty Millar, Pres.

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Dear Readers:

Welcome to another year with the Richmond Historical Society.

As the newly appointed editor, may I wish you enjoyment in reading this and following issues of the newsletter.

An effort will be made to keep you informed of the Society's activities and projects as well as some interesting facts of Richmond's historic past. -- Virginia Arnold

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Membership dues of \$3.00 may be mailed to Charles J. Edmonds, Treasurer, Carolina, R.I.

There are not enough superlatives to describe the time, talent, and labor that Ray Bader and his Building Committee have devoted to the preservation of the Bell School interior.

Besides the dust and debris flying from all the windows, the first evidence of all this activity a visitor gets is the new door. Far from resembling a barn door as one member feared, the new triple thick door, constructed entirely by Ray, looks right at home on its black hand wrought hinges. Complying with the R. I. fire safety code for public buildings, the door opens outward and hand railings have been placed on either side of the stone steps - a further concession to safety requirements for public buildings. To protect the door somewhat from inclement weather, a small overhang was also added. It blends well with the whole, and one would not suspect it had not always been there.

Inside the building, the visitor is met with a bright, cheerful new interior. Well, it looks new because it is clean, but much of the old can be detected by a careful look around! An addition to the comfort of the building and a contributor to continued preservation is a feature you will not see: - insulation above the ceiling. This was thoughtfully and generously donated by Roland Morgan who regreted he did not have time to work on the project. Next came the ceiling, material for which had been donated by an interested non-member several years ago. The old ceiling was in such a state of deterioration it had to be replaced. The new ceiling duplicates the cathedral lines of the original ceiling, but is at the lesser height of an earlier renovation. It is, of course, white.

Ray did such a fine job at patching the old plaster and replastering where the old was missing entirely, that it was decided that paint rather than paper was in order at this time, although at no time did any of the committee detect evidence of previous paint on the old plaster. The paint is a bright, but very pale blue-green; similar to the back-ground of some wall paper Ray found behind the main blackboard. -- to be continued in October issue.

#### Bell School Museum Survey Results

From a family membership comprising approximately 120 individuals, 23 responses were received. Those who indicated specific restoration dates were as follows: "As early as possible", 1; 1826-1900, 3; 1826-1934, 3; 1918, 1; 1920-30, 2; 1930-34, 1. No one who specified the above dates wished to have the building used for small exhibits or occasional added attractions. Twenty of the respondees wished to see original use continue with meetings and special programs being held in the building. Slide shows, lectures, special exhibits from the archives, adult programs, arts and crafts shows, and programs for school children were the desires of nearly all of these respondees. Arts and crafts workshops

A few people had additional use suggestions which the committee will take into consideration. Twelve thought the building should be used year-round, 8 as a summer attraction, and 6 as a week-end attraction.

These results as well as all the additional comments made on the survey were carefully considered by your Executive Board before the Building Committee chairman was reappointed and they were discussed at length with him before the work recommenced. It would be impossible to please everyone; we have tried to comply with the wishes of the greater number of members who showed interest in the project.

During the renovation, the workers have had daily \* visitors; local people and passersby who have been interested in a project underway. Most of them have responded very enthusiastically (some monetarily) to the work being done.

As well as being a good carpenter, Ray Bader has been a good public relations man!

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MEMBERSHIPS -- cont'd from page 4

John and Ruth Arnold	Virginia Lacey
Edward Barske family	Marjorie Lillibridge
Dale and Dianne Harvey	Mary Panciera
Robert Jordan family	Rob Roy and Barbara Rawlings
Henry Hoyle	Carl Richard
Stuart Kenyon	Gladys Segar
Reginald Kettlety	Melvin and Natalie Taylor

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HISTORICAL FAIR REPORT

For the first time, the annual fair was held in the Bell School yard in July although it was postponed to Sunday, the 16th since inclement weather threatened Saturday morning. The threat became a down-pour during the afternoon.

The highlight of the event surely was the exhibit set up by Archivist Caroline Stoner inside the partly renovated school-house. A guest book was at hand for signatures of visitors among which were several former students of the school.

Yvonne Dawley should be heartily thanked for her work with the Society's bake table which netted a tidy sum for our treasury.

About a dozen exhibitors set up individualsale tables on the grounds and several participants worked their crafts throughout the day. Homemade quahog chowder, sandwiches, and lemonade were available during the noon-hour. The weather was ideal and a good crowd attended.

Many thanks are extended to all who helped make the Fair a success.

Virginia Arnold,  
Acting Fair Ch.



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October 1978

Patricia Millar, President  
West Kingston, R.I. 02892

Virginia Arnold, Editor  
Usquepaugh, R.I. 02892

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#### MR. EDMONDS TO RETIRE

Our treasurer, Mr. Charles J. Edmonds announced at the September meeting that he must, for reasons of health, retire from office. This will be effective at the October meeting.

Charlie told those in attendance that he has enjoyed being involved in the society's activities and plans to attend future meetings, but feels he must give up the responsibilities of the treasurer.

A charter member of the Richmond Historical Society, he was elected treasurer at the organizational meeting on May 21, 1968. For more than ten years, he has very capably managed the various financial records of our organization.

It is safe to assume that all who know Mr. Edmonds realize that during past years, he has given a great deal of himself to this community and its organizations, including the Richmond Grange, Washington County Pomona Grange and the Richmond School Committee as well as the Historical Society.

Best wishes to you, Charles, and thank you for a job well done.

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#### NEXT MEETING-

Sunday, October 15 at 2 p.m. We will meet at the Chariho School parking lot and proceed in a group on a Field Trip through the Carolina Management Area with guides Ray and Ida Bader.

Following the tour of the reservation, members are invited to gather, around 4:30 p.m., at the Carolina Fire Station on Route 112 for a reception to honor retiring treasurer Charles Edmonds.

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#### FOR THE ARCHIVES-

Memorabilia from 1978 election, for any candidate whether state or local, to include buttons, leaflets, bumper stickers and such, is requested by archivist Caroline Stoner.

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LOOKING AHEAD to NOVEMBER

On Sunday, November 19 at 2 p.m. the meeting in the Bell School will be followed by an Exhibit of Fashions, worn around the turn of century, under the direction of Patty Millar and Gladys Segar.

The display will be open to the public on the following Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 24, 25, 26.

In conjunction with the exhibit, a sale of gift items made by members of the Historical Society will be sold on a commission basis. Profit from the sales will go directly to the treasury for operating funds. If enough interest is shown in this venture a permanent project may be considered. For further information, call 783-3519.

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MEMBERSHIPS PAID - cont'd from page 7

Douglas and Dolores Battey  
Harry and Mildred Chatalian

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BELL SCHOOL MUSEUM SURVEY RESULTS - explanation of "cut-off" at bottom of page 6 -

Arts and crafts workshops and spelling bees received the fewest responses. A few people had additional use ( We are sorry for the blunder and expect to improve with experience).

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BELL SCHOOL PROGRESS REPORT by Patty Millar cont'd

The gray walls were washed - or rather scraped and scrubbed in hopes that a tar-like substance which was splattered against several of the walls would not bleed through fresh paint. This operation revealed an early coat of slate gray paint, covered by a layer of tan sponged-mottled with darker tan, and a final layer of battleship blue-gray which Ray has attempted to duplicate.

FLOORS TELL A STORY

Early last Spring, the society membership voted that new flooring should be purchased and Ray proposed that the present top flooring which was in good condition should be used to patch the subfloor. This sounded like a good preservation measure until -----

Removal of the top floor revealed a very worn floor beneath. Inch thick boards were in places worn to ¼ inch thickness and the placement of desk and chair attachments could be readily seen as mounds on the floor.

It was suggested that students' hob-nail boots were the culprits. There were even indentations made by students who sat on the back bench and "dug in " with their heels! One spot was a minor mystery. Near the now east wall, the floor was worn through, and almost entirely through the next floor below. Could this have been under the teacher's desk? At this writ-

ing, the top floor in this area had not all been removed so the floor may yet have more to tell us.

The third layer down was another temporary surprise! Clay soil. With a little thinking back by a couple of the older members, and the appreciation of logic, it was soon concluded that this clay was layered over an old floor and packed to level the surface for the new floor (these had been wooden shims beneath the current top floor) when it was laid and also to act as insulation. The fourth and fifth layers down were in spots in such condition that they shedded and crumbled in the hands! Here we looked for evidence of benches as may have been used in a meeting house, but not enough of this layer had been exposed yet to read a story. We were, however, presented with a larger mystery. Nine feet from the now east wall and 34 inches from the blackboard wall on the entrance side a rectangular hole with rounded ends had been rough cut through the third and fourth floors. (to avoid confusion at this point - there were four layers of flaying, but five layers including the layer of clay soil to deal with).

The hole measured 19 x 8 inches and was immediately in front of a large beam which did not show evidence of being disturbed in any way. The hole was not patched, the next floor had simply been laid over it. What does your research of early schools or meeting houses tell about disposal of sacramental wine or water or baptismal water? Even a small very thin child could not have slipped through the hole for inspection of the under supports.

Needless to say, all this does not make a substantial foundation for a new floor. So it all came up, with samples of each layer saved for the archives. Ray planned a new sub-floor of plyscore with a vapor barrier between it and the top floor. Many will lament the loss of so much history, but if our building is to serve as an educational historical site continuing its function in history and welcome visitors into its museum hall, it must have a floor which is substantial and safe.

Hundreds of decisions and Miriad minor repairs have been incorporated in the large jobs, and Ray and his committee now have the major work completed. The new floor has been stained "nutmeg" and the stove is in!

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Those who missed the September meeting and "look-see" at the spanking clean interior of the Bell School --- well, you are in for a treat in November. You will have to see it to believe it! - Editor -

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November 1978

Patricia Millar, President  
West Kingston, R.I. 02892

Virginia Arnold, Editor  
Usquepaugh, R.I. 02892

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#### NEXT MEETING

On Sunday, November 19 at 2 p.m. the regular meeting in the Bell School Museum will be followed by a Costume Exhibit of fashions worn around the turn of the century directed by Patty Millar and Gladys Segar. Interested persons are welcome at regular meetings.

Refreshments will be provided by Earl and Helen Brunskill 1, Mr. Charles Edmonds, Herbert and Virginia Arnold.

The sale of gift items (mentioned on page 9) will be a sample collection at the meeting because of limited space. More will be added during the open display on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 24, 25, 26 from 1 to 4 p.m. each day. Admission is free.

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"DRIFTWAYS of THE PAST" would make a dandy Christmas gift! "Driftways" published by the Richmond Historical Society last year is 300 pages of local history and pictures of the town of Richmond, R.I. For your copy of "Driftways" contact Archivist Carolyn Stoner.

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#### HIGHLIGHTS OF OCTOBER MEETING

Twenty two members and friends of the Richmond Historical Society met Sunday afternoon October 19 at the Carolina Fire Station following a tour of the Carolina Management Area (story on page 12 by Eleanor Smith). Ray and Ida Bader conducted the trip.

President Patty Millar called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. and read minutes of previous meeting in absence of secretary Jane Barkham.

Ray Bader reported that the stove and pipe were installed in the Bell School and that he would have a full wood-box in the entry in time for the next meeting in November.

Ethel Pepper Perry, a Florida member writes that her Dad had family in Wyoming and she asks: "Who owns the Indian Spring Farm" and who were Mary L. Pierce's parents" ?

As the business at hand was completed, Patty noted that she often heard CHARLES EDMONDS spoken of as she was growing up. She received her diploma from him and "thought it was great to have this experience". (Mr. Edmonds was at that time chairman of the Richmond School Committee). She spoke of his many talents appreciated by townspeople in addition to that of our treasurer. Meanwhile a congratulatory card was being passes and signed by those in attendance.

Amidst the praise and applause, Patty presented, on behalf of the membership, a pleasingly wrapped package topped by an orange satin bow (it was October) to the retiring treasurer. Flash bulbs popped at picture taking and Mr. Edmonds revealed a letter opener engraved:

"With love and appreciation for treasured service generously given. Richmond Historical Society 1978".

"Pretty nice", Mr. Edmonds was heard to say. He then stood and remarked,

"Just ten years ago in May 1968 and I have quite a little bit of junk here to turn over to somebody". He noted that he had checked with the bank and "everything seems to be in order". He said,

"Thank you very, very much and I will attend every meeting I can get to. Thank you very much".

The president then appointed Herbert Arnold as treasurer to serve the remainder of Mr. Edmonds' term, until June 1979.

Refreshments of chicken salad and ham salad sandwiches, cake and brownies, milk, coffee were arranged by Patty Millar and Ida Bader. The attractive orange tablecloth setting included a fat orange candlelight centerpiece.

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#### TOUR IN CAROLINA MANAGEMENT AREA by Eleanor H. Smith

On Sunday, October 15, a sunny breezy day, eleven members met at Chariho School at about 2:30 p.m. and proceeded by car to the Carolina Management Area. We stopped at a Lillibridge cenetery which contained some twenty graves, dating from the early 1800Is to the 1930's, all apparent members of the Lillibridge family. The entire cemetery is enclosed by iron rods set into granite posts and is situated on a sandy hill.

We next stopped at another hill, on top of which is located the Essex cemetery where one Essex member, an officer of the Civil War, is buried. Heat cut stone walls enclosed

the twenty-five or so graves; entrance through the wall is by an iron gate.

Off we went again to the public fish pond where a few people were trying their luck. We walked leisurely over the terrain to one end of the pond where an attractive growth of cattails was discovered. We turned around, then walked by road to the other end of the pond at the Kenyon Hill Trail. We turned left, walked uphill a distance and found the site of the old SQUIRELVILLE SCHOOL. It had been cleared and levelled but a few iron desk brackets had been carefully placed in a small pile along with a few stones and bricks which could possibly have been the remains of the school chimney. Along the way, the three young girls found that someone was collecting leaves so they spent considerable time and energy finding beautifully colored leaves.

We returned to our cars with time left to visit the Maxon cemetery on Sandy Pond Road. Wending our way through brush, we stumbled upon an area where grave stones emerged from the ground with no walls to indicate this as a cemetery. Of the eight to ten stones here, one marks the burial site of Jonathan Maxon, Lt. Col. of the Revolutionary War.

Now ready to return to the meeting at Carolina Fire Station, we were suddenly halted by Carolyn Stoner's announcement that her car was locked with the keys inside! After twenty minutes or so of frustrated effort, Ray Bader was able to work a wire in and open the door. We all cheered at the happy conclusion of an interesting tour.

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LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER

Dedication of the Bell School Museum is planned for Tuesday, December 19 at 7:30 p.m. A holiday atmosphere is to be included in the program and some special guests will be invited for this event.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES are \$3.00 per year and may be mailed to treasurer, Herbert L. Arnold, Usquepaugh, West Kingston, R.I. 02892.

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DID YOU KNOW:

the "cranberry" or "craneberry" is native to both North America and northern Europe and its name refers to the resemblance of the bud and stem to the head and neck of a crane.

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MAY PEACE, JOY AND HAPPINESS BE YOURS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

NEWSLETTER

of The Richmond Historical Society

page 14

Vol XI No. 5

December 1978

Patricia Millar, President  
West Kingston, R.I. 02892

Virginia Arnold, Editor  
Usquepaugh, R.I. 02892

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NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, December 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bell School, a Christmas party and dedication of the Bell School Museum. An open invitation is extended to the Bell School Alumni.

Some special guests have been invited to participate in the dedication program.

There will be an exchange of gifts (dollar); also, you are invited to bring an ornament (non-electric) to hang on the live Christmas tree.

Refreshments will be provided by Earl and Eleanor Smith, Harry and Millie Chatalian, Paul and Marion Hawkins.

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NEW MEMBERS:

Don and Nancy Wiles who recently moved to Richmond.

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REQUEST:

Donations of authentic and appropriate furnishings for the Bell School Museum.

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"DRIFT DAYS OF THE PAST"

There are still copies available at \$10.00 plus 75¢ mailing charge. The book contains 300 pages of pictures and local history of the town of Richmond published by the Richmond Historical Society.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF NOVEMBER MEETING, EXHIBIT, GIFT SALE

Twenty two persons attended the first meeting of the Society to be held in the Bell School. The room was warmed by the wood fire burning in the little black stove. Members were seated in settees which had been rescued from the Town Hall shed some weeks before and newly painted. Some managed to sit on the narrow bench along the back wall, rather uncomfortably.

On entering the schoolroom, one was aware of fashions worn long ago. Standing models showed gowns and coats. Shirts, skirts and dresses were pinned to screens and hung on the walls. One-time, stylish infant wear and ladies' undergarments were arranged on a table.

President Patty Millar opened the meeting and started the usual reports when Gladys Segar arrived in a sopper brown taffeta gown of an earlier day. It was trimmed in brown velvet and equipped with a hoop in the skirt. She mentioned that it was a bit awkward to drive the car with it. She asked for help to bring in several boxes of things for the exhibit.

Meanwhile reports: the minutes of the previous meeting and a treasurer's report were read and accepted. Millie said she definitely plans the FAIR for next year. Carolyn noted there are eight boxes of "Driftways of the Past" left. Ray Bader turned in a final report of the building committee who had worked since he was appointed in February of 1978.

Mentioned in his report were installation of window guards, removing of old ceiling and lathes which were taken to the dump. Insulation for ceiling given by Roland Morgan was installed. Ray built a new door. A new ceiling went up. They repaired holes in plastered walls, removed layers of wall paper, washed woodwork. Then the FLOOR Old boards were broken up and set aside to use as kindling in the BELL SCHOOL STOVE. A new pine floor was laid and stained nutmeg, wood-box installed and filled with wood. All came to a cost of \$1855.93 for materials. The work committee now released, Ray handed a file of listed materials and receipted bills to President Patty.

And the members stood and gave forth with an enthusiastic outburst of applause to show their appreciation to Ray Bader and committee Carolyn Stoner, Earl Smith, Ed Barske, and Henry Boucher.

Carolyn then mentioned that she had salvaged some old materials to be thrown in the dump, pulled out nails and cleaned the boards which will be used as fronts for her new kitchen cupboards. She said,

"The old school will never die, just go on forever".

A cup was passed around and \$10.86 was collected for the Sunshine chairman Eleanor Smith to purchase cards, stamps, etc.

President Patty recommended that shades be purchased for the windows; also some hooks should be installed along beams and black-board top for future exhibit and display hanging.

Earl Smith was appointed building custodian, Ray Bader volunteered to be groundskeeper.

Earl and Helen Brunskill set up the refreshment table with hot coffee, delicious cookies and Devil's Food Cake.

THE COSTUME EXHIBIT set up by Patty was open to the public for three days following Thanksgiving. The attendance was good overall although scant on the first day, a very rainy Friday. Visitors of all ages seemed very interested and photographers arrived to represent two newspapers.

Among interesting items in the costume exhibit were a pair of black velvet earmuffs, or rather what seemed more like ear mittens.

There were four wedding gowns, one a very old, and fragile of brown taffeta worn by an ancestor of the late Dan James about one hundred years ago. Three white ones were more recent, a satin and lace creation made and worn by our Society president. The wedding gown of her mother Eleanor H. Smith was a white organdy and of her grandmother Ethel House was made of a sheer fabric and lace.

The exhibit included a lady's embroidered open drawers, a corset cover, a hand embroidered dressing gown with matching nightgown, handmade lace collars, handbags, and knitted white cotton stockings.

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TIMELY TOPIC: One of the great ideas of the past century was the union suit. No undershirt roll up while chopping wood, they fit like the skin. - from an old catalog.

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Gladys Segar showed her mother's wedding petticoat with much embroidery and a lining, and her father's wedding nightshirt with as much embroidery and ruffled cuffs. There were shoes including tiny slippers Gladys wore as a flower girl at an aunt's wedding. There were hats, a poke bonnet, a man's Beaver hat and much more.

THE SALE TABLE of gift items made by members created enough interest to warrant consideration for a permanent project to include sales and demonstrations in the near future. Handmade for the table during the exhibit were supplied by Earl and Eleanor Smith, Jane Markham and Virginia Arnold. There were plants, mittens, stuffed toys, wood objects, jam, a handmade crib quilt, "Driftways" and more. Besides providing a delightful experience for those involved, the sale netted \$50.94 for the Society treasury.

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LOOKING FOR SOMEONE?

Family Circle 11/75, John M. Ravage

Here are a few tips on locating your ancestors, even if you have only a few clues to the past. After you have searched your own memory and exhausted those memories of all your oldest living relatives, it's time to begin contacting some genealogical societies.

For those right here in Rhode Island or New England, a good start is Goodspeed's Book Shop, 18 Beacon St., Boston, Mass. 02108. Goodspeed's catalog, GENEALOGY AND LOCAL HISTORY is published every two or three years and includes family name lists, military lists, and town histories. The telephone directory is a great source, not only for name listings, but the yellow pages offer listings under "Genealogy, Genealogical Societies" or your state name.

The U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (National Center for Health Statistics, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 8-20, Rockville Maryland 20852) publishes pamphlets on where to look for birth and death records as well as marriage and divorce records. The National Archives in Washington, D.C. is another excellent source as they have ships' passenger lists on record. Most public libraries have access to the Library of Congress catalog entitled GENEALOGIES IN THE LIBRARIES OF CONGRESS which lists publications from many national sources. The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints, Inc. has most of its records on microfilm which they will send to a local Mormon Chapel for your reading pleasure. They have a fantastic wealth of information. A pamphlet offering guidelines for requesting information can be obtained by writing GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS, INC., 50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150. Churches and town officials in many countries can help you, but be prepared to pay, in many instances research fees are part of the income.

SEARCHING FOR YOUR ANCESTORS by Gilbert H. Doane is a helpful paperback selling for \$5.95 from the University of Minnesota Press, 2037 University Ave., S.E., Minneapolis, Minn. 55455. The New England Historic and Genealogical Society is good for the last 100 years and is located at 101 Newbury St., Boston, Mass. 02106.

There may be discrepancies in your research findings. It's your job as family genealogist to record and compare, note the inconsistencies and sort out the facts. REMEMBER, there was a change of one year back in the 1700's somewhere and this may cause some confusion when comparing gravestone dates and other records.

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Patricia Millar, President  
West Kingston, R.I. 02892

Virginia Arnold, Editor  
Usquepaugh, R.I. 02892

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## NEXT MEETING:

Sunday, January 14 at 2 p.m. at the Bell School Museum, or the Richmond Town Hall, according to the weather.

Following the business session, the program will be on "Quiltmaking". Pam Simmons and Virginia Arnold will show and explain some of their quilt projects.

Collation committee will be Mr. and Mrs. Don Wilde, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon McElhaney, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gorman.

## ON COLLATION - from the President,

From its inception, the Historical Society has been physically nourished by predetermined committees, notice of which is given only through the Newsletter. The first family listed acts as chairman and contacts the other members. This has worked very successfully for these ten years and we've not gone hungry once! The committee is responsible for coffee, cream, sugar, paper goods, and goodies. The coffeemaker is provided at the meeting location.

If anyone should have problems or conflicts, please do not hesitate to call me. I'm usually home around 6:00 p.m. or before 7 a.m. -- Patty

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## COLLATION COMMITTEES:

FEBRUARY, 18, Sunday at 2 p.m. -Mr. and Mrs. Ed Barske, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Battey, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Handell.

MARCH (evening or afternoon to be decided) -Mrs. Hope Blaine, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dawley, Mr. and Mrs. ~~and~~ Stuart Kenyon.

APRIL 17, Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. -Mr. and Mrs. William Stetson, Mrs. Marjorie Schunke, Miss Gladys Segar.

MAY 15, Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. -Mrs and Mrs. Robert Jordon, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Richmond, Mr. William Carpenter.

JUNE 19, Tuesday, time to be decided (annual meeting) -Mr. and Mrs. Robert Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Stedman, Mrs. Martha Stoner.

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## A FIRE EXTINGUISHER

has been donated to the Bell School Museum by the members of the Richmond Town Council.

President Patty was notified of this gift since the December meeting.

Our Society is very grateful for this generous offer.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM DECEMBER MEETING

Members and guests gathered around 7:30 p.m. December 19 on a cold and windy evening. Inside a wood fire crackled and the one-room school was very comfortable for the meeting and dedication of the BELL SCHOOL MUSEUM.

A live Christmas tree furnished by Ray and Ida Bader had been set up and was trimmed by members as they arrived and exchange gifts were arranged beneath it.

CONDENSED FROM A READING by Patty at the Dedication

Around 1825 and 1826, a group including Reynoldses, Hoxsies, Clark Sisson and others constructed the one room school which was to be known as Bell School District No. 9. It served continuously as a school and occasionally as a community hall for more than a hundred years. In 1934, Richmond Consolidated Elementary School was opened and the Bell School, No. 9 was closed supposedly for the last time.

In 1968, the Richmond Historical Society considered ways to preserve the Bell School. Negotiations with the Department of Natural Resources to move the school from its original location on the corner of Tug Hollow and Hillsdale Roads began in June of 1969.

We are here this evening, a full 10½ years later in December of 1978 to dedicate the building back into use as a public facility in the form of a one-room school museum.

Much of this would not have happened had it not been for the perserverance and ingenuity of a member of the original Bell School Moving Committee, Herb Arnold. He made most of the contacts with State people, contracted the mover, found a stone mason to do the foundation job, set the electric company right about the price for moving wires, and so forth. The building was moved.

The State completed the exterior restoration work which took several years. Much of the prodding during this phase of the operation can be attributed to Edward Barske, Town Coordinator, who kept the phone busy and who seemed to know the right person to speak to at just the right time.

It is, however, the final PRESERVATION COMMITTEE which we wish to recognize here this evening.

Calling Herb Arnold back into service, the president asked him to present an engraved plaque to the school and to Raymond Bader, acknowledging the work Ray and his committee, consisting of EdBarske, Earl Smith, Carolyn Stoner and Henry Boucher had accomplished during the past year. -continued on page 19-

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THE PLAQUE PRESENTATION was a complete surprise to Ray until this time!

Herbert called Ray forward and spoke of his "fabulous accomplishment" and noted that "he had a way of commanding that got the job done". Ray admitted,

"I am overwhelmed and did not expect this" as he accepted the plaque for the school and/on to praise the committee and other volunteers.

The plaque, engraved with names of Preservation Committee members, will be hung in the schoolroom for visitors to read and appreciate all that has been accomplished.

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