

about to let him get away from me!"

Someone asked, "Do they steal the traps?" Mr. Wilcox replied, "The animals don't steal my traps; I stake them down. People sometimes steal them. I've lost twelve traps this year." When the traps are stolen, so are the naimsl in them. The value of the lost traps ranged from \$4.00 to \$10.00 each.

When questioned if people really ate raccoon, Mr. Wilcox was upstaged by an eight-year-old in the audience who stated emphatically, "They taste rotten!"

Three skinning knives were exhibited: a sheath type knife about 4½" long and two folding knives, about 3" long.

Usually, the skins are slit from the rear feet to the base of the tail, then the skins are peeled off the body so the fur is inside. They are pulled over boards with the fur still inside. These are called stretcher boards and are made especially for this purpose. The skin is allowed to dry thus for a day or two then it is removed and returned to the board fur side out. There it remains until it is sold. Nothing is put onto the skins; they dry naturally. The best fox skins are those that are red clear down the center, and have a full bushy tail called a "bruhh." The tail always has a white tip. The feet are not wanted at present and are cut off. Before Christmas is the time to sell; the prices may drop later. A handsome fox skin drying on a board was circulated through the audience. The value of fox skins has risen considerably since last year; they are worth \$30.00 now. Ida Bader remarked that fox furs would become popular as Jackie Onassis was recently seen wearing fox.

Mrs. Donald Wilcox wore a mink collar which was passed around to examine. This was made from the first minks that Donald and his brother trapped. A Daniel Boone hat fashioned from the skin of a radcoon was also displayed.

Mr. Wilcox mainly traps muskrat, mink and fox. He sets his traps on other people's property only with permission and places them so that he can view them every day with glasses from his car. All trappers are required to be licensed by the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Game. A number is assigned to each trapper, which he keeps as long as he traps. His number is 479. There are three other known trappers in the local area.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, February 12, 1974, at 7:30 P.M., at the home of President Ida Card Bader, Woodville, R.I.

THE LEAGUE OF RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETIES
WINTER MEETING - Saturday, February 16, 1974
at RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE - Cost \$4.75
TALKS - LUNCH - WORKSHOPS

N E C R O L O G Y

December 4, 1973

RESOLUTION

- WHEREAS, Roy Rawlings, member of the Richmond Historical Society, died on November 27, 1973; and
- WHEREAS, he was a charter member of the Richmond Historical Society; and
- WHEREAS, he was a former Republican Speaker of the House and a state representative for 13 years; and
- WHEREAS, he was the husband of Lucy I. Gammell Rawlings, who for many years was active in the civic life of the community and a dramatics coach at the University of Rhode Island; and
- WHEREAS, he was father of the original Rhode Island State Police Bill passed in the General Assembly in 1926 and
- WHEREAS, he was responsible for the passage of legislation that provided Richmond with its elementary school as a vocational institution; and
- WHEREAS, he possessed a fierce pride in the Town of Richmond, and was a strong proponent of the Town Meeting form of government; and
- WHEREAS, he has served in the community as a member of the Board of Tax Assessors; and
- WHEREAS, he and his family owned and operated the Meadow Brook Golf Course in Wyoming, that is considered one of the finest in Rhode Island; and
- WHEREAS, he ran one of the largest grain businesses in the area; and
- WHEREAS, he was president of the Wood River Branch Railroad Co., a line which ran from Hope Valley to the main track at Wood River Junction, passing freight from and to the Rawlings Grain Co. in Hope Valley and to the merchants and farmers in the country area; and
- WHEREAS, he was the father of Lucy Rawlings Tootell, who organized and was president of the Richmond Historical Society for five years, and is currently the state representative from Representative District 52; and

WHEREAS, he was father of Rob Roy Rawlings who is a charter member of the Richmond Historical Society and was elected to the state senate from the Town of Richmond and later as a senator from Senatorial District 25; and

WHEREAS, he was elected to the Richmond Historical Society Hall of Fame as Honorary President for the year 1970 in honor of his dedication to his community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Historical Society does hereby express most sincere gegrets at the death of Roy Rawlings; directing the secretary to transmit a copy of this resolution to his widow and each of his children.

NEXT RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOWN MEETING

The next town meeting will be held Tuesday evening, March 19th, at 8 P.M., in the Richmond Town Hall. The public is always welcome to attend.

The program will be held in honor of twenty Richmond GOLDEN AGERS at which time special presentations will be made by President Ida Card Bader.

Music will be furnished by Carolyn Stoner and the Hannuksela sisters.

Bring questions on the village of Alton to the meeting as some of the Alton Golden Agers such as Horace Riley may be able to answer them.

COLLATION COMMITTEE

The Collation Committee for the next town meeting will be: Mr. & Mrs. Richard Miller, Co-Chairmen; Mr. & Mrs. Paul deGannett; and Miss Marjorie Schunke.

COMING EVENTS

- April 13 Sat. Clear Tefft Cemetery near the Washington County Fair Grounds.
 April 20 Sat. Town Meeting - More Golden Agers.
 May 4 Sat. Field Trip to Historic Cemetery in Alton.
 May 21 Tues. Town Meeting - at the Bell School near Town Hall.

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP OPEN TO ALL

Send three dollars family membership to Ida Card Bader, Woodville, R.F.D. Hope Valley, R. I. It is tax deductible.

WASHINGTON TRAVELED THROUGH RHODE ISLAND

- 1756, February - Stopped in Newport at the home of Godfrey Malbone on his way from Virginia to Boston
 1776, April - Now commander of the Continental Army, he journeyed from Boston to Providence and stayed at the Stephen Hopkins house.
 1781, March - Visited Count de Rochambeau, commander of the French troops at Newport, and travelled to Providence. He rode horseback through Richmond and stopped at Kinyons.
 1790, August - Visited Newport and Providence after our ratifications of the Constitution.

Richmond, R.I.

CEMETERY NO. 35

VI.- 35.

~~Brown Lot~~ Rebecca Baggs Lot

(Located on east side of ~~Hope Valley Road~~) (Switch Rd)

REBECCA BROWN, wife of JOHN BAGGS, died August 23, 1870.
Age 43 years, 1 month, 20 days.

(Note: the surname could be DROWN)

SARAH JUDITH, daughter of JOHN L. AND REBECCA BAGGS,
died March 3, 1863. Age 2 months, 5 days.

Jonathan Colegrove Lot

CEMETERY NO. 36

(Located on west side of ~~Hope Valley Road~~, on the south side
of the Railroad Tracks) Kings Factory Rd.

Daughter POLLY, age 12 months.

MELISSA COLGROVE, wife of STILLMAN, died May 17,
1878. Age 61 years.

FRANCES, wife of JONATHON COLGROVE, died April 22, 1858.
Age 72 years.

JOHN CRANDALL, born May 5, 1792. Died March 3, 1832.

Five other field stone markers.

(Continued from Vol VI. - page 27)

Reference: James N. Arnold, NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL REGISTER:
Vol. VI. No. 3 - page 282.

-M-

MARRIAGES

- Maxson Jonathan, and Mary Woodmansee; m. by Edward Perry, J.P.,
Dec. 29, 1763.
- Sarah, and William E. Phillips, Nov. 12, 1789.
- Jonathan Jun., of Col. Jonathan, of Richmond; and
Elizabeth Brown, of Hopkinton, dau. of John; m.
by Elder Henry Joslin, Jan. 6, 1791.
- Milleman Abigail, and William Bentley, April 21, 1754.
- Minturn Penelope, and Joshua Griffeth, Dec. 19, 1773.
- Mary, and Philip Griffeth, Feb. 23, 1783.
- Mitchell Lydia, and John Bitgood, Dec. 23, 1779.
- Moon Desire, and Benjamin Barker, May 28, 1761.
- Phebe Ann, and William O. Taber, Aug. 12, 1860.
- Moore, Mary and Michael Dawley, Dec. 29, 1758.
- Marian, and David Lillibridge, Oct. 28, 1762.
- Phebe, and George Niles, Oct. 5, 1767.
- Silas, and Chloe Phillips; m. by Edward Perry, J. P.,
Mar. 7, 1780.
- Silas Jun., of Richmond, and Sarah Tripp, of Exeter,
dau. of Peregrine; m. by Elder Gershom Palmer,
Feb. 20, 1820.
- Mary Ann, and James Ballett, Mar. 31, 1839.
- Silas, and Amie A. Kenyon; m. by Elder Benedict Johnson,
Jan. 1, 1843.
- Robert E., of David, and Mary T. Hoxsie, of David; m. by
at East Greenwich, by Elder Thomas Tillinghast,
Nov. 28, 1844.
- Mary, and Moshier Webster, Oct. 18, 1846.
- Morey Mary A., and Benjamin Worden, Mar. 25, 1843.
- Moshier Elizabeth, and John Webster Jun., Dec. 6, 1751.
- Sarah, and Charles Kelley, Dec. 28, 1775.
- Mumford Judeth, and Gideon Foster, Oct. 12, 1758.
- Jerah, of Jerah, late of South Kingstown; and Deborah
Lillibridge, of Richmond, dau. of Thomas; m. by
Robert Stanton, J. P., Mar. 14, 1776.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Maxson Mary, of Jonathan & Mary,	June 28, 1764
Jemima, " "	Jan. 25, 1766
Jonathan, " "	June 9, 1768
Sarah, " "	Dec. 24, 1770
Mius Elizabeth, of Oliver	Sept. 12, 1736
Mary, " "	April 6, 1740
Ann, " "	Jan. 20, 1742
Alice, " "	Mar. 19, 1746
Oliver, " "	Mar. 18, 1748

Written by Mrs. Patricia Clark
(Continued from page Vol.VI. - 15.)

The front houses were rented to the lace weavers, as they were financially better able to pay the higher rents. The weaving trade was very hard to get into. The trade was closed to new people unless your father was a weaver.

In 1913, Thomas Hines, who lived most of his life in the village, was held up by robbers on his way from picking up the payroll for the mill at the Richmond Switch Depot. The guard with him was Charles Northrup, who received a wound in the robbery. After that, the mill owner bought a number of guns and stationed guards all along the route to the Railroad.

The first car in Alton, in 1914, was owned by Howard Holberton, who worked in the mill as a designer. Mr. Holberton lives right across the town line in Hopkinton.

Nathaniel S. Lewis from Alton, was town forest warden in Richmond for over 40 years. He was also town treasurer for 25 years.

Alton Fire Company formed in 1943, bought their first fire truck in 1958.

Sidney Lees came to Alton from England as a small boy, worked in Richmond Lace Mill as a supervisor. Mr. Lees lives right across the town line in Hopkinton.

Stanly Napper and his wife who live in the village, both worked in Richmond Lace.

Archie Burdick, 82 years old, has lived in the village for 52 years. Remembers working in the Lace Mill.

Horace Riley, 88 years old, has lived in village for 85 years, in house at the end of Riverview Drive. This land is part of the Riley homestead where his parents lived.

Richmond Lace Works closed in June 1962. The present owner of the mill is Charberts, Inc., which opened in 1963. The present owner of the mill did not take over ownership of the homes in the village. All that the mill does is supply water for the homes. This they tried to turn over to the villagers a few years back with no success.

What the village does not have and quite probably will never have again, is a mill which will own and maintain the village as was twice done in its past history. The village in the past ten years of private ownership has fallen on bad times, the yards and sidewalks are in dire condition with abandoned vehicles, household appliances and general litter, spread all over.

If only the villagers and the town fathers of Richmond can be awakened to the fact, that what we have in Alton is not a historical house or two, but in fact a historical village. How many towns can make this claim? Of the original 32 tenements and a store built in 1862, in 1973 there are 30 of these original tenements and the store still in the village, waiting for history to reclaim them and put them in the place of honor they deserve.

THE END

Contributed by George Foster, Westerly, R. I.

Reference: THE NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL REGISTER, Vol.: I. No. 3, p. 222.

The earliest authentic and distinct accounts of the FOSTER FAMILY, of Narragansett, yet attained appear to be the arrival here of three young men, brothers, John, Thomas and Caleb Foster, from - as the record of the old deed still extant says - "Salem, in the government of Massachusetts Bay, in 1708-9." They settled in what was then Westerly, now Richmond, "Westerly and Kingstown" then comprising what is now Washington County. John, with his widowed mother, probably, on this, his first purchase - for the boundaries being only from one marked tree, or stake, to another, without courses or other landmarks, cannot now be accurately located - of 100 acres of land in a rectangular plat, as stated in the above mentioned deed made by one John Hall, who seems to have been a sort of dealer, or "land speculator," as we say now, and to whom there are deeds of previous dates from the colonial land officers of larger tracts; and also from him to other parties of subsequent dates. The price paid was "fourteen pounds in current silver money" and possession was given in the old Scotch style by "turf and twig." Here he soon built the antique and heavily timbered, but now old house, still standing on the road between Carolina Mills and Woodville, and which was afterwards for a time occupied and long owned by his grand son, John Foster the third - as we call him by generation from the exodus of Salem - and from him descended to his daughter Sarah Sheffield, who owned it down to about 1850, when it passed out of the family after a possession of some 140 years.

The first named, John Foster the first, married Margery Card in 1724. They had five children born to them in the next seven years, viz: Card, Mary, John, Hannah and Christopher, as correctly stated in the first number of the REGISTER. John, long known as HONEST JOHN, was childless, and gave his farm in Richmond to his grand nephew, my uncle, John Foater the fourth, of Charleston, so called. Christophehr, like his two uncles Thomas and Caleb, seems to have left but few descendants, some remnants of whom, like the late Lawton Foster, have remained in and about Hopkinton, while others have migrated or otherwise disappeared. But Card Foster, the eldest son, had three children, two of whom - daughter - died young; one being buried on the memorable dark day of 1780. But his son, John Foster the third, my grandfather, was born in Richmond in 1755, and married Ruth Hoxsie in 1776. They were both earnest members of the Society of Friends and raised a family of seven children, two of whom, Ethen and Othniel, had each a numerous family, and from them have descended those of that name now in this part of the state, excepting perhaps some scattered individuals of much later arrival and different origin.

The last named, John Foster the third, inherited a considerable tract of land in Richmond, about where Wyoming is now situated, and during the Revolution, taxation became so heavy, that with all his great strength and resolution he found it almost impossible to raise sufficient means to pay his taxes, and military fines, and DISTRAINTS. for he was a true quaker, and therefore could neither fight, train,

or VOLUNTARILY pay fines even for not doing so. In this strait he at one time offered all his estate RENT FREE to any one who would occupy it and pay the taxes, but found no takers. Soon after the war closed, however, he found purchasers in a company of men who bought the larger part of it upon the stipulated condition that the payments were to be made in regular annual installments of fixed quantities of corn. This provision, when the continental currency became worthless and corn high, proved so advantageous, as to well remunerate him for his previous hardships and struggles in holding on to it, but at the expense of being dubbed CORN FOSTER by his chagrined and ill-natured debtors, and the payments necessarily extending through a number of years, gave them time to nurse and intensify their feelings. But as the indebtedness was gradually extinguished it all passed away, and no reasonable grounds remain to suppose that he acted other than the part of a strictly honorable and christian man in the transaction, being conspicuous as a pronounced, energetic, and upright man, free from all hypocrisy and deceit himself, he was little disposed to be tolerant of them in others, but otherwise mild and gentle in his intercourse among men, very affectionate to his friends, and his religion that of the heart, rather than the head. About the year 1795 he purchased a tract of land in North Stonington, Conn. upon which he resided until 1818, when he returned and settled near the water in Charlestown, R. I., where he died suddenly in 1825, with what the doctors then called "cramp in the stomach," identical probably with what is now known as Angina of the heart, or more freely heart disease, and with which two of his children and several of his grandchildren have since been carried away. One of his daughters, however, my aunt Judith Peckham, still survives, though nearly the close of her 92nd year.

Those elder Fosters of Richmond, were evidently a plain, prosaic, laborious and stalwart people, but possessing withal a hearty honesty, and integrity and uprightness of purpose and character which so distinguished most, or many of our New England ancestry, and stands out in such strong and honorable contrast with that of many of their easy-going and demoralized descendants, who are already reaping some of the bitter fruits of blighting and mildew, which their neglect of those high and necessary virtues have so soon brought upon themselves, and others also, in some cases.

NAMES OF CLOTHS SOLD IN COUNTRY STORES (1789 to 1812)

Denim Oil Cloth, Salem Pure, Taboreen, Mode, Platidas, Gauze, Comblet, Shalloon, Cassinet, Beaver, Rowells, Shay, Dutch Lace, Vellum, Lawn, Tabbyreen, Wild-boar, Calico, Mustinet, Ribbeline, Henim, Cordurette, Florentine, Toilenet, Jean, Publicuts, Dimity, Linen, Jeannette, Nankenette, Joan Spinning, Sinchems, Cheyneen, Bastas, Bombazette, Marseilles, Thickset, Humhum, Lutestring, Broadcloth, Tanning, Cassimere, Tapity, Swandowne, Baize, Velveteen, Sarsenet, Lasting, India Satin, Flannel, Tabarets, Dincut, Lustian, Satinett, Cooting, Mamsdie, Maxeen, Colimanos, Velvet, Stomont Calico, Black Persian, Tundaconas, (To be continued)

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK --- Patter from Patty

At the recent (Feb. 12) Executive Board meeting held at the home of President, Ida Bader plans for cemetery cleanups in conjunction with the Bicentennial Commission were discussed. It is hoped that at least two cemeteries, preferably those with Civil War veterans, could be cleared and restored each year. A family day including picnic lunch will be planned for each work session.

The Hope Valley Fire Company is beginning restoration work on "Diamond Tilly", their first fire truck. "Tilly" was originally Richmond's first town fire truck, donated from Hillsdale Mills; her past history is to become part of a permanent exhibit in Hope Valley. A wooden slab, bearing the names of the first volunteers in Richmond is now in the Richmond Historical Society Archives. It was voted that this "plaque" be presented to the H. V. Fire Co. as part of their exhibit as a permanent loan from the RHS at such time when "Tilly" is fully restored.

New appointment: Patty Millar was unanimously appointed as curator of an historic costume collection for the Society.

* * * * *

COSTUME AND TEXTILE COLLECTION
Patricia A. Millar, Curator

In an attempt to make broader use of our archives, the wearing apparel and related accessions will now be organized as the nucleus for a bona-fide historic costume collection.

The collection will include garments of all types as well as accessories such as jewelry, muffs, purses, hats, walking sticks, button collections, shoe horns, shoe trees, etc., catalog and newspaper illustrations contingent to life in Richmond from the time of early settlement. Indian costumes and artifacts of apparel will be included, should such items become available.

Items will not be collected indiscriminantly, but must represent age groups, occupational groups, and developmental periods in the town. Hopefully as contributions continue to expand the collection, we will have a complete story of changing life style in the Richmond area from Indian hunting days to the present living-room community that we are today--History in Fashion.

The collection is not intended to collect moths. It will be properly preserved in proper atmospheric conditions and as facilities allow, will be an ever-changing exhibit; perhaps used on special costume occasions, be a study resource for theatre and costume histories, and serve as an educational resource for our local schools.

An important aspect peculiar to Richmond's history and not often found in costume collections will be a collection of textiles exemplifying our important textile industry.

Facilities are ready -- curator is learning her job -- please donate!

NEXT RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOWN MEETING

The next town meeting will be held Saturday evening, April 20th, at 7:30 P.M., in the Richmond Town Hall. The public is always welcome to attend.

This will be the second program held in honor of seven additional RICHMOND GOLDEN AGERS to be presented citations by President Ida Card Bader.

The entertainment will include slides of local historical happenings of interest to the members. There will also be comments from the GOLDEN AGERS.

Items of interest for the SHOW & TELL TABLE will add to the enjoyment of the evening.

COLLATION COMMITTEE

The Collation Committee for the next town meeting will be: Mr. & Mrs. Henry Boucher, Chairmen; Mr. & Mrs. Melvin J. Taylor; and Mr. & Mrs. Donald Wilcox.

COMING EVENTS

April 13	Sat.	Clear Tefft Cemetery near the Washington County Fair Grounds. Meet at 9-9:30 A.M.
April 20	Sat.	Clean Reynold Cemetery at Tug Hollow. Meet at 9-9:30 A.M. On property of Capt. Whitford.
April 20	Sat.	Town Meeting at Town Hall at 7:30 P.M.
May 4	Sat.	Field Trip to Historic Cemetery in Alton.
May 18	Sat.	League of R.I. Hist. Societies Spring Meeting. Navy Open House at Officers' Club in Newport. Historical lecture and exhibit over 200 years.
May 21	Tues.	Town Meeting - at Bell School near Town Hall.

NAMES OF CLOTHS SOLD IN COUNTRY STORES (1789 to 1812)

(Continued from Vol. VI. page 39)

India Pewlong, Scarlet Broadcloth, Makra Gunges, Ribbed Delaine, Striped Grandurell, Black Russell, Mimpy Sockey, Clouded Nankeen.

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP OPEN TO ALL

Send three dollars family membership to Ida Card Bader, Woodville, R.F.D. Hope Valley, R. I.. It is tax deductible.

Jonathan Maxon Lot

COLONEL SHEFFIELD MAXON, died June 15, 1867.
Age 64 years, 3 months, 29 days.

MARTHA, wife of COLONEL SHEFFIELD MAXON, died June 7, 1830.
Age 38 years, 11 months, 26 days.

JONATHON MAXON, lt., Col., 3rd Rhode Island Militia,
Revolutionary War. Born February 2, 1755. Died July 1, 1838.

JOHN, son of BETSY KINYON, died February 11, 1831.
Age 12 years, 10 months, 12 days.

ISAAC, died October 28, 1828. Age 1 year, 5 months.

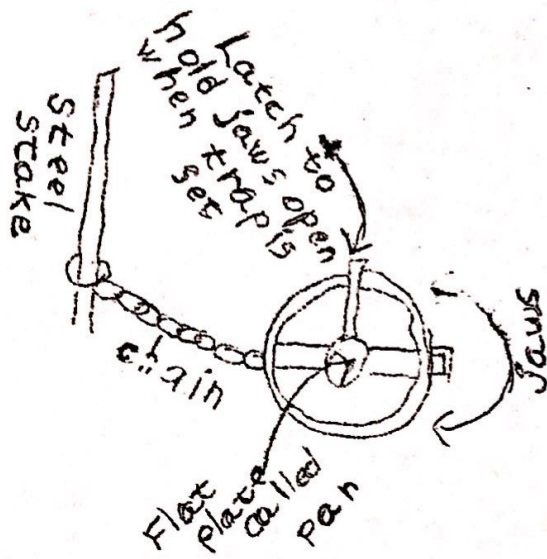
Infant son, died June 2, 1830. Age 12 days.

CLARISSA, died March 25, 1831. Age 4 years, 1 month,
19 days.

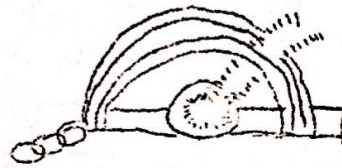
Children of COLONEL SHEFFIELD AND MARTHA MAXON.

(Continued from Vol. VI., page 31)

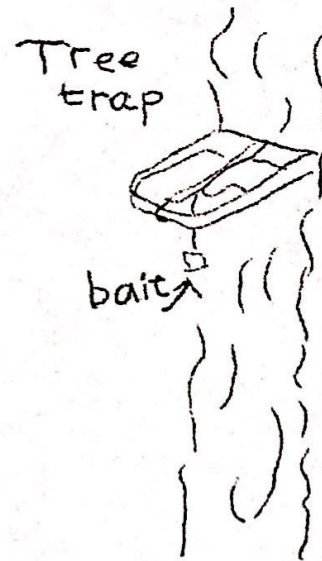
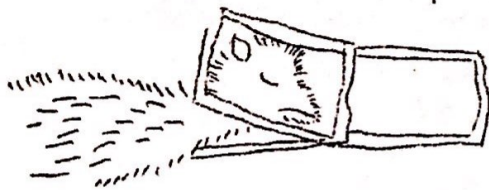
General principle of a trap



Animal steps on pan which releases a spring. Jaws snap shut



Principle of certain types of humane trap



ehs

The Richmond Historical Society possesses several of these so-called ANGLE LAMPS presented by the Members of the Six Principle Baptist Church in Wyoming, R.I. For this reason, the abstracts from an article in the Providence Sunday Journal, February 24, 1974, F-2, by Harry M. Baker, Wickford, R.I., should be of interest to the Society Members: -

"Wick Lamps have been used for centuries in burning oil, grease, fat and at last petroleum. None was very efficient until Argand invented the tubular wick. Even then, until kerosene was widely distributed, few enjoyed good light after dark.

Most common lamps were of the flat wick variety, and in fact a majority of those made today are of this type. It is cheap and easy to construct, and substantially foolproof in use - but there is a basic drawback.

The burner and wick are at the top center of the oil fount, which thus casts a shadow around the base of the lamp. Light is cast from the sides of the chimney, a disadvantage in reading. Small oil founts were tried, but the results was simply to reduce the size of the annoying shadow.

Near the end of the 19th century, one inventor tackled this problem in a new way. He reasoned that if the burner and chimney could be tilted, light would fall on a table below without shadow. Tipping the fount would spill the oil, so he designed an upright fount with a chimney coming out the side at an angle.

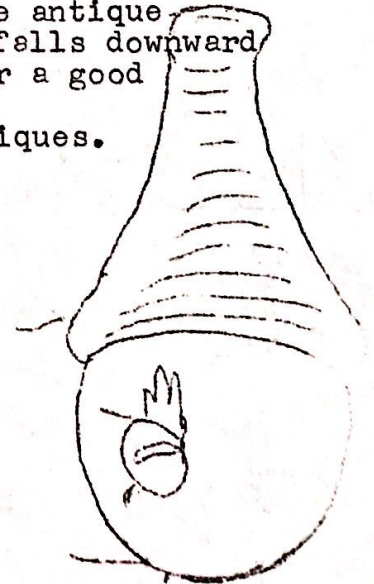
This was the appropriately named ANGLE LAMP. One or more burners protrude from the side of a metal fount containing a small amount of kerosene in the bottom. This is replenished as used from a metal tank slipped into the open top of the fount.

Glass chimneys of the ANGLE LAMP are ingenious. Each consists of a globeshaped bottom section, with a milk glass upper chimney shaped to provide a good draught for the flame. Light from the wide flat wicks shines brightly downward.

Single-burner ANGLE LAMPS are wall type; others are chandelier or hanging types.

Manufacture of ANGLE LAMPS was limited, not only by this declining market, but because the device was expensive. Most were sold in the cities of the Northeast, and the lamps are now scarce. Surviving examples are eagerly sought by collectors, not only for age, but because this is probably the most effective antique illumination for a table. As originally, the light falls downward without shadow or glare - the basic requirements for a good hanging fixture.

Harry M. Baker of Wickford is an expert on antiques.



NEXT RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOWN MEETING

The next town meeting will be held Saturday evening, May 25th at 7:30 P.M., at the Old Bell School House near the Richmond Town Hall. The business meeting and refreshments will be in the Town Hall Council Room. The public is invited.

Members and guests are invited to bring any items of interest pertaining to the Bell School or Richmond School history. Anecdotes are also requested.

COLLATION COMMITTEE

The Collation Committee for the next town meeting will be:
Lucy R. Tootell - Coffee, sugar, cream, coffee cups, spoons.
Ida Bader - food, napkins.
Mr. & Mrs. Richard E. Wolke - food

COMING EVENTS

- May 18 Sat. League of R. I. Historical Societies Spring meeting.
Navy Open House at Officer's Club, Newport Navy Base.
Historical Lecture and Exhibit over 200 years.
For information, call Lucy R. Tootell.
- June 15 Sat. Walking Tour of Warren, R.I.
Cost: \$3.50 includes box lunch.
Sponsored by Massasoit Historical Society.
Reservations no later than June 6.
For information, call Lucy R. Tootell.

OFFICIAL INCORPORATION OF SOCIETY

The Richmond Historical Society was officially incorporated April 30, 1974.

Lucy Rawlings Tootell contributed toward the expense of the original incorporation papers.

Captain Marcus L. Whitford contributed toward the expense of an official incorporation seal stamper. He also made use of a stamper which was a family heirloom.

This should help to balance the Society budget.



NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

The following are excerpts from the minutes of two Public Town Meetings, both of which were held in the Town Hall.

March 19, 1974

Mrs. Ida Bader presided over the meeting attended by 24 members and guests.

Mr. Charles Edmonds, Treasurer, reported the following monies: \$111.34, checking account; \$288.50, Building Fund; \$35.00, Scholarship Fund; \$4.40, interest on savings.

Mrs. Tootell reported that the Bicentennial Commission has received \$1000.00 from the State to match other source funds. This money is to be used toward a publication on town history, marking of historic houses, cemetery clean-up, and other celebrations. The history of Richmond is to be put on tapes for use with slides as educational media for the elementary school. This is to be a townspeople endeavor.

Earl Smith reported that the latest word from the State regarding Bell School was that they (State) were anxious to get the project finished this summer!

The Cookbook Committee met recently to make plans for the annual Antiques, Handcraft and Food Fair. Bob Smith has offered to make clam chowder and the date will be somewhat contingent on when he is available to do this as he also does it annually for the South Kingstown Heritage Festival.

The special program for the evening honored 20 Golden Agers (75 years and older) from Richmond. As each guest was introduced, a few words concerning their years in Richmond were offered and each received a wooden plaque bearing a map outline of the Town of Richmond, their name inscribed (written in ink) and the names of the president and vice-president of the Society.

At intervals during the presentations Carolyn Stoner, Carla and Sonja Hannuksola entertained with song to guitar accompaniment. Their selections included "Side by Side", "Country Roads" (dedicated to Ray Bader, who definitely is not a golden Ager--we wonder what his influence is!!), "Young at Heart," "When Irish Eyes are Smiling," "That's an Irish Lullaby," and "Put on Your Old Grey Bonnet."

Recognized were:

Maud Anderson

Drusilla S. Allen

Grace I. Barber

Archie W. Burdick

Phoebe L. Buridck

Charles J. Edmonds, a resident for 54 years, worked with Mr.

Arthur Slocum and Mrs. Eva Hinchliffe in promoting the Chariho Regional High School. As an initiative move,

Art invited the three town councils to a chicken dinner, at which time the idea and proposed plans were presented to the councils. A Resolution was sent to the General Assembly where Louis Porroault was then Senator, the Resolution went into committee for a prolonged time and seemed about to be laid over for another session, but some lobbying work was accomplished and just before the Easter Recess in 1958, the Resolution was brought out of committee and a bill passed, making possible our own Jr., Sr. High School.

Anno E. Fowkos

Ernest E. Fowkos

Froda H. Harvoy, in Richmond since 1931-2 worked at the Alton lace mill as a mender.

Olga V. Nimmo spent 42 active years in Richmond, serving as Town Tax Collector, Republican Committee member, Rationing Board Member, all voluntary positions which used the training received at Bryant College in Providence.

George E. Stevens

Grace L. Stevens, a resident of 10 years.

Olga L. Hannuksola, grandmother of Sonja and Carla, with Mrs. Schulz ran a farm kitchen in Woodville for many years.

Horace Riley, living in Richmond since 1887 in the same house in Alton, remembered some tales about the Elder Rev. Daniel Davis who is buried in the cemetery on his property. The Elder Davis died in 1904; he had been well-known and respected in his earlier days and as age took its toll, the Town Council appointed the Rev. Warren Dawley who was Director of Public Health, to oversee the care of Elder Davis during his last days. The Davis farm was sold to a man named West from Mystic who moved his furnishings the last mile (from the train) by hand with the help of one Isaac Ellis, a neighbor. The old chimney was dirty and faulty and one day not long after the new owners had completely settled in, a fire started from the unclean chimney, burning the house to the ground.

Fannie Thurston

Irving Mason has lived in Carolina for many years--28 on the Charlestown side of the river and 25 on the Richmond side. His wife taught in the Wyoming school house in 1914, walking from Carolina to the Railroad Station in Wood River Jct. where she took the train to Hope Valley and the

letter carrier took her to school. She then moved to a new position as Principal in Westerly, watching over 240 students vs. the 22 she cared for in Wyoming.

Ruth M. O'Donnell

Elsie W. Schulz

Amy Moen

Cyrus D. Williams

Someone mentioned Cy Williams would enjoy visitors.

April 20, 1974

The treasurer reported that there is a balance of \$105.24 in the checking account.

Mrs. Bader reported that the Bicentennial Commission-Historical Society joint effort to clean cemeteries is under way beginning with the Tofft Cemetery located on the Washington County Pomona Grange property.

Herb Arnold reported for the Bell School Moving Committee that work on the school was gaining fast. Mr. Ryan, State Depts. Natural Resources, said that the ground around the building will be graded. When Robin Spears contracted to do the foundation work, nothing was said about placing a bracing underneath the building. When this matter was brought up, Spears said that there would be an additional \$25.00 charge to put in the piers. Herb gave Spears the "go-ahead" on the job, assuming that the Society would probably have to provide the extra money, but Mr. Ryan included it in Spear's final payment.

The building should be ready for our inspection at the May Public Meeting, scheduled for Saturday, May 28th.

Mrs. Lucy Tootell, Archivist, reported that Corporation papers are being filed. Capt. Marcus L. Whitford has given the Society an official corporation seal with which all official papers will be stamped in the future. Many thanks, Marcus.

On Saturday, May 18 the League of Rhode Island Historical Societies will be holding its spring meeting in Newport. The topic will be the 200-year history of the Navy.

The Joint Committee on Naming State Constructions has decided that the newly reconstructed bridge in Shannock at Horseshoe Falls will be named Clarke Bridge as suggested by former Senator, Rob Roy Rawlings. Dr. John Clarke received property around the falls in a 1663 charter from Charles II. Mr. Clarke's descendants shared in the Shannock Purchase (1709) and have since been very influential in the village of Shannock and the surrounding town.

At this point, Mrs. Roy Rawlings asked permission to speak. She said that because we are a small country town, our strength lies in the fact that we are an entity in ourselves. We country people, as a unit, have a personality all of our own. She and Mr. Rawlings have for many years collected data relative to the Town of Richmond and to the history of the people in the town. With an established history comes an atmosphere of dignity dreamed of by our founding Fathers. Mrs. Rawlings debated whether to take her material and work through the Rhode Island Historical Society which is established and very likely to remain in existence, or to work through the smaller Society here in Richmond, which because of its newness, might conceivably disband. She decided that because of her feeling for the strength of the small town, she would be an agent of her townspeople. She is making her purpose in life now to help the Richmond Historical Society for the good

of education and history, for the good of the flag! Mrs. Rawlings further said that she believes in the people in the group and wants to help all that she can, but that she in turn also needs the support of the members. She and Roy wanted to keep this area an open stretch of land in the middle of the town as it was when they came to Richmond. She is sorting and writing about the plantations and the people who owned them: the Clarkes, Lillibridges, Ida Bader's father. We are uniques, she says.

Mrs. Rawlings stated that she is very proud of the Town of Richmond and the fact that we here in the country at least try to have a wholly American government. She reminisced about arriving in town replete with baggage and chickens and how they felt free to speak out in a town meeting although at that particular time the meetings were run by the "Old Guard" boss system whereby no one listed if someone new did speak out. She referred to the time she stood to make a comment: one of the "Old Guard" immediately stood and objected, then quired, "What did she say?"!

Mrs. Rawlings was instrumental in starting the PTA and reported that during one period the meetings were overcrowded because the people were upset that their children were going to be bussed to school and that this could be dangerous. Her lesson here was that if you keep people fighting for causes, they will keep coming to meeting!

She admonished us to do our level best to stay Richmond.

PROGRAM:

This was the second in this year's series of meetings to honor Golden Agers in Richmond. The Golden Agers who were especially honored this evening with recognition and a plaque included:

Henry D. Hoyle, born 1897 in Beaver River Valley, attended Beaver River School, and still resides at this birthplace; served 40 years on the Republican Town Committee, eight years as State Representative, and four years as State Senator. "Harry" fully endorsed Mrs. Rawling's views.

Maud C. Knerr

Martha C. Matteson was born in South Kingstown, near the Kingston Fairgrounds, and attended West Kingston School #15. She moved to Richmond on October 19th, 1919.

Blanche M. Trumbell was born in nearby Charlestown, attended Shannock School, Westerly, and Providence Schools before settling in Richmond.

Vivian Rathbun was born in Hillsgrove and was a Providence girl until she moved to Richmond following her marriage to....

Charles Rathbun who was born in Richmond around 1890, but attended school in Hopkinton (Owendale). The question surrounding "Charlie's" birth date is because in those days the doctor would wait until he had four or five births to record, then he would travel to the Town

Clark's (Halsey P. Clarke) office to register them. Because of the delay, he might forget some bornings and apparantly Charlie was one of the forgotten fow---he has no record of birth!

Lucy I. Rawlings

Ethel D. House

Helma L. Pearson, wife of....

John H. Pearson who was "born in Swedon when I was a little kid." John came to Richmond in 1921, has found "nothing to kick about," and is glad he came.

We are glad they all came to Richmond.

Those Golden Agers who were unable to be present at the meeting will all receive plaques, or certificates (for those in Nursing Homes where wall plaques could not be enjoyed).

The evening concluded with a showing of slides (despite the projector's unexplainable reluctance to participate for the first few minutes!) of some of the past year's activities of the Society.

F A I R

Sponsored by the Cookbook Committee

The Annual Richmond Historical Society Handcrafts, Food and Antiques Fair will be held Saturday, July 20, 1974 (rain date, July 27) on the lawn of the Rawlings Estate opposite the Meadowbrook Golf Course. From 10 A. M. until 5 P. M. there will be sales and displays of baked goods, canned goods, jellies, pickles, pottery, ceramics, candles, jewelry, bottle crafts, plants, and so forth. An added attraction will be working demonstrations of crafts.

Will someone loan an umbrella table to be used on the day of the fair?

We are making a patchwork quilt for a drawing and would appreciate donations of cotton print cloth.

If anyone is interested in participating in or would like more information concerning the Fair, please contact Mrs. Earl Smith, Mrs. Richard Millar, Mrs. Ray Bader, or Mrs. Henry Chatalian.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Richmond Historical Society will be held Wednesday evening, June 19th, at 6:30 P.M. at the Wood River Baptist Church, Route 3, Wyoming, R.I.

The meeting will commence with a Pot-Luck Supper, to which members are asked to bring a food item such as casserole, salad, dessert, rolls, bread, butter, etc. Everyone should bring his own plate, cutlery, Napkin, cup, etc.

Being newly incorporated, this meeting will adopt by-laws and elect corporation Officers. The Nominating Committee as appointed at the last meeting are: Patricia Millar, Henry Boucher, and Lucy Tootell.

The Collation Committee for the annual meeting will be: Mr. & Mrs. Earl Smith, Co-Chairmen; Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hawkins; and Mr. & Mrs. Harry Chatalian.

ANNUAL DUES

June is the month for annual dues - \$3.00 per family.

JULY FAIR

Mrs. Harry Chatalian, Chairmen of the Cook Book Committee, reports that work is progressing on making the quilt for the July Fair.

The Fair will be held July 20th on the lawn of the Rawlings Homestead, Route 138, Meadowbrook Valley, Richmond, R. I.

There are a number of tables promised for the Fair but there is still space for anyone interested in selling their own handmades, plants, foodstuffs, jellies, baked good, books, white elephants, or whatever.

At the June 6th meeting of the Cook Book Committee, they were invited to a display of old and new quilts at Mrs. Byron Smiths, made by her and Mrs. Rathbun, including Dresden Plate, Sunbonnet Sue, Nursery Story, and an unfinished Colonial Girl. Also three old quilts; Log Cabin, Garden Path, and Crazy Quilt.

We then had a workshop on the quilt we are making for the July Fair which is progressing rapidly.

JOIN THE FUN - DON'T FORGET THE FAIR JULY 20.

ALSO

DON'T FORGET YOUR DUES

PUBLIC TOWN MEETING MINUTES

May 25, 1974

Eighteen members and guests were present to view the interior of the Bell School; most of whom were "game" to attempt the rickety-stool climb to the door. Along with no front step, there was no light in the building, the windows still being boarded up. With the help of flashlights, the condition of ceiling, floor, and walls was noted. Much work needs to be done before the building is furnished. Since there is still quite a bit of State work (belfry, chimney, front step, grading) to be done, opening days seem to be still in the distant future.

Following the above tour, Mrs. Bador formally opened the business meeting in the Town Hall.

Treasurer:--A gift of \$25.00 toward the Building Fund was received from Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Stedman, boosting the fund to \$287.50. This very generous gift is greatly appreciated.

Archivist:--Lucy Tootell called our attention to the Show and Tell Table on which was displayed a collection of valuable materials pertaining to Bell School, loaned to the Society for the occasion by the Richmond School Committee. The materials included records of the Bell School District #9 from 1846 to 1931 and teacher and student attendance records from 1891 to 1931. Records from 1931 to 1935 still are not located, but may well be included with other school district records yet unsearched. With this exception, we are very fortunate to have such a complete set of authentic records, excerpts from which have been included with previous Newsletters. Two of the books contain reports of the first PTA started at Bell School in Richmond, 1922-24, signed by Mrs. Annie P. Wainwright, secretary.

It was a night of reminiscing. Lucy recalled the beginning of bussing in Richmond for her was a ride in a Dodge livestock truck which had wire sides with canvas flaps and three seats awkwardly placed within. This arrangement carried the children to Carolina School. Mr. Stedman dated bussing in South Kingstown to 1903 when a two-horse team and open wagon did the job. Paul DeGannett thought he remembered that for a while Bell School was closed and the children from Hillsdale were transported to Carolina for a short time before the present consolidated school opened. He commented that at the time parents were very concerned that bussing was dangerous for the children; today it is sometimes the children who are dangerous to the busses! The subject calls for more investigation as dates ranging from 1920 to 1929 were suggested as the first bussing dates in Richmond.

Oliver Stedman mentioned a Charles Thurston who served with Major Young's "Boy Scouts" at the Shenandoah. Mr. Thurston, otherwise known as "Reckless Charlie" because of his expeditions during the Civil War, was a local man who lived with the Brown family. He was a photographer and took many of the pictures of Narragansett Pier and the beach which are so valued historically.

Still thinking about earlier school days, Mrs. Stedman spoke of the "big school" (two rooms) in Patunuck wherein there was no question of discipline. A good sound shaking solved many problem children!

Lucy Told one of her favorite discipline stories, remembering back to her earliest school visitation days at age four. Jeannette Lillibridge Brown was teaching at Center #6, or Quarrelsome Corner School at the time a new family arrived from New York City. The boy of the family, aged 15-16, was placed at the back of the room according to his size and school custom. He said little. When Mrs. Brown tapped the bell for recess, he refused to move from his desk. When she tapped the bell for lunch, he again refused even when urged to do so. Mrs. B. kept the young man after school at the end of the day and strongly questioned his behavior. Why hadn't he responded to the bell? He explained that where he came from the children responded to electric bells. Mrs. B. straightened her back, looked him in the eye and announced that next time, if he did not move when the bell was tapped, she would supply the electricity!

This mention of electricity prompted some questioning as to just when electricity was introduced in Richmond. Lucy remembered 1922 as the date it came to the Rawlings home. The villages were supplied sometime prior to that date.

Mrs. Rawlings was very involved in education as was her late husband, and she recalled being at a meeting with a Mr. Ranger, Head of the Department of Education. He stated that at that time, three of the finest teachers in Rhode Island were right in the Town of Richmond. He referred to Florence Richmond, Mrs. Brown, and Ida Clark. Mrs. Brown was a very creative person and encouraged creativity in her students.

CENSORED

CENSORED

CENSORED

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CENSORED

Guests for the evening were Susan and Jay Lacouture who have recently purchased the Babcock-Josephson-Tefft house built in Carolina in 1820. The house was believed to have been moved from Shannock Hill to Main Street and this is the first time that it has been outside the Tefft family.

Two articles from an early issue of the Tribune were read and will appear later in the Newsletter. The articles

reminded Paul DeGannett that the original road passing the Rawlings Estate ran on the back side of the house between it and the shed. Very little visual evidence of that road now remains. Paul also recalled a little anecdote furthering the rascally reputation of Charlie Fuller mentioned in the articles. Fuller was small of stature; one of his arguments brought him up against a man who was somewhat larger. Fuller challenged him, but stated, "I can't fight you, but I'll be right back." He was, with a very large deputy to do his work for him!

In drawing the commentaries to a close, Ida stressed that such stories are not only enjoyable, but provide a valuable means of accumulating accurate history to be recorded for the future.

Wyoming village has been recommended for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. This is a pleasing event and we are all curious as to whom was responsible for this action.

Richard Wolke asked what is the feeling in the town regarding the Town Council appointing an Historic Commission to survey the area and establish historic districts within the town? By way of clarification of the position that organizations must take in such matters, Lucy explained that State law does provide for the appointment of historic districts but that caution is advocated in taking steps in this direction. When such designation and the resultant zoning takes place, the rules and regulations accompanying such an action apply to all within the district regardless of the size or the power of the pressure group (a business establishment, for example). Such action requires the agreement of all persons involved. If such action is desired, such desires and requests should emanate from within the interested group with a request for action, rather than have a governing body (in our case the Town Council) hand down a decision. Spot zoning for individual buildings or sites is a possibility to consider.

GIFT: Patty Millar presented to the Society Historic Costume Collection a reproduction of a 1747 gown which she had made for this purpose. The date was selected because it is the date Richmond was established as a township. As part of the research for authenticity, Patty went into the Probate Records for the years 1747-50 and found an Inventory of Goods and Chattels of Barshabe Lewis, wife of Samuel Lewis who was one of the Shannock Purchasers. Mrs. Lewis had an extensive wardrobe for those days and it was from this inventory that Patty made her final decisions regarding the authenticity of Richmond plantation owner dress.

The gown is of yellow flowered chintz, cut with deep decollete in the front, the bodice extending in a V below the waistline, the skirt falling to the sides to expose a gold quilted petticoat. Slim, cuffed elbow length sleeves ending in white ruffles are also a mark of the style of the period. The bodice laces up the front and can be worn several ways:

over the chemise (today's slip) which is gathered at the neck and ruffles around the neckline of the dress for softness, over a gold quilted stomacher to match the petticoat (chemise concealed), or with a white fichu or scarf tucked in the lacings to cover neck and shoulders (a modesty piece). No costume of the period is complete without a mob cap. These caps vary greatly in style, but are always white. This one was a simple circle gathered to fit the head. At the point of gathering there is handmade linen insertion lace which belonged to Mrs. Harold House (Patty's maternal grandmother), and to grace the edge of the cap, edging lace made especially for the cap by Millie Chatalain. The major flaw in the costume is that the long seams and major holding seams are stitched by machine; in 1747, it would have been entirely made by hand.

Most historic costumes are fragile and it is not wise to model or handle them extensively. This costume is intended to be worn on appropriate occasions and be truly representative of one facet of life in Richmond.

Thanks went also to Mrs. Tootell for her help and advise in research.

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ARTICLES APPEARING IN THE TRIBUNE 1892 to 1896

Copies by Ida Card Bader from Hazel Ritchie's scrap book.

Richmond

I am requested by Mr. Wm. James, that fine old man, now over 83 years of age, who was born in this town, and who has spent the most of his life in it, to make the following statement in your paper;

I had returned home. My peck and four quart measures were in my wagon, while I was engaged in taking out my horse, the "scaler" etc, came up, and demanded that I should have them scaled. Said I, they are all right, I think, as I bought them not long ago. He then took my measure out of my wagon and started off with them, rather than have him carry them off, I consented to let him go to work, My peck measure, he called right, My four quart measure he said was too large, and, in cutting it down, he has damaged it. He then called for my steelyards, and other measures, And then he charged 56 cents."

Mr. James says he considers that he was abused, and wants pay for the measures that was nearly ruined. His wife is 88 years old, and in feeble health. They are known all over Richmond, and elsewhere, as fine and truthful people.

C. D. Kenyon, the thriving merchant of Usquepaug, said to me; "I want you to make this statement in the Tribune for me. Fuller has spoiled one of my oil measures in his contemptible work, as I regard it. I have sent him a card requesting him to come and settle, but he fails to appear. I am bound to have satisfaction."

... fine old man of the town, said,

Henry A. Cahoone, a fine old man of Tug Hollow, said, "He has spoiled my peck measure. It is cracked clear across the bottom. He sealed two measures and a pair of steepleyards, and charged me 56 cents," "Did he charge 25 cents extra?", I asked. No State it in the paper that I consider he imposed upon me."

Mr. James and Mr. Cahoone expected the Town would pay the expenses. Many other cases of a similar kind could be reported, but I shall name no other, unless especially requested to do so. No "25 cents extra" was charged here.

Witness

1893

A party of nearly forty ladies and gentlemen, from this village and Wyoming, a large part of them members of the Hopkinton and Richmond W. C. T. U. chartered Lester's large party carriage on Monday evening, and took a ride into the town of Richmond, four miles away, to the residence of Mrs. Abby Lillibridge, near the Richmond town house. They had planned to go sleighing, but the rain spoiled it, and the slippery ice proved quite perilous for the wheels, and the sliding from side to side, and the swaying of the carriage reminded them of a boat on a stormy sea. The six horses, with the veteran whip, John McDonald, at the reins, carried them safely, and they had to unload only once to allow the team to be righted. The party arrived a little before 9 o'clock, and was cordially welcomed by Mrs. Lillibridge and her aged mother Mrs. Almy, who is 88 years old, and spry as the younger ones. The visitors were given possession of the house, and soon had two kettles of molasses on the stove, and while the sweet was boiling for candy, they sang, played games, and had a genuine social time. A table covered with peanut shells gave evidence of that kind of refreshments; and then the candy was properly worked that disappeared also. About midnight the party returned home, all appearing satisfied with the success of the outing, and grateful to Mr. Lester for his accommodation.