

"We have had the formality and now the frivolity", remarked Carolyn as she handed Ray a small wrapped package. It was a framed picture of her exquisite hand-writing on the school blackboard, a reminder of the date when the interior work was officially completed.

"September 24, 1978 - Thank you, Ray".

The surprised recipient said, "I will hang this on my living room wall and will cherish it as long as I live."

Guest speakers were introduced. Richmond Town Council President Bradford Pride said he was "totally impressed" with the project and encouraged the Society to continue such work. Other council members attending were Joseph R. Gardiner, Roland Morgan, and William Day.

Rev. Magar Bedrosian, pastor of St. Elizabeth's of Canonchet and St. Thomas, Alton noted that "the school is part of our history" and spoke of several other restoration examples. He gave the benediction at the DEDICATION OF THE BELL SCHOOL MUSEUM.

A social time followed. Carolyn supplied the musical accompaniment for the Christmas singing. Harold Markham served in good stead as St. Nicholas and distributed the exchange gifts. Millie Chatalian hosted at the refreshment table where spice cake, chocolate cake and hot coffee were furnished by the collation committee.

PURPOSES AND GOALS OF THE MUSEUM

-continued from page 18-

Our PURPOSES in restoring Bell School to use are two-fold:

to preserve an important building representative of a phase in history in Richmond, and

to provide a center from which the Richmond Historical Society can reach the community through educational programs, interpreting the past in a natural setting for better understanding of the present and the future.

Our GOALS:

to furnish the building as it would have been when functioning as a school, and

operate it as a school museu. To keep interest active, various programs, exhibits, workshops, and of course, our annual fair, will be held at various times throughout the year, using items from our ever expanding archives to tell a story, explain a life style, revive memories, or teach a lesson.

This project is a use restoration as well as a building preservation. The building is once again to become an educational facility and a community meeting place where the essence of the past is captured to give flavor to the future.

It is to these purposes and goals that we dedicate the Bell School House ~~to~~ to museum status for historic interpretative recreation.

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

Virginia Arnold, Editor
Usquepaugh, R.I. 02892

NEXT MEETING:

Sunday, February 18 at 2 p.m. at the Bell School Museum, or the Richmond Town Hall, depending on the weather. The Town Hall area usually gets plowed out promptly after a storm!

The program "An Afternoon with Frank Williams and Abraham Lincoln" will follow the regular business meeting. Mr. Williams is ~~collax~~ an attorney and resides in Richmond. He was recently appointed Hopkinton's Town Solicitor.

Collation committee will be Mr. and Mrs. Ed Darske as the chairmen, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Battey, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Handell.

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LOOKING AHEAD ***** SALES AND DEMONSTRATIONS --

On Tuesday, March 27 from 10 to 4 o'clock, "Quiltmaking", the first in a series of home-art programs, will be open to the public at the Bell School Museum.

Several quilt makers will demonstrate their projects during the day when interested persons may observe and ask questions on the various phases of making a quilt.

Also, gift items made at home by Society members will be offered for sale on a commission basis, thus providing an outlet for hand-work and funds for the treasury.

A different demonstration is planned for each month when experienced workers will be invited to display and explain their projects.

These demonstrations and sales are intended to encourage interesting and educational activities for people of the community.

If there is a particular project which you wish presented, why not contact an officer of the Society, or call Virginia Arnold (783-3519).

HIGHLIGHTS OF JANUARY MEETING -

President Patricia Millar conducted the afternoon meeting in the Bell School Museum. Eleanor H. Smith was appointed temporary secretary in the absence of Jane Markham. President Patty displayed the recently purchased stationery and notepaper with the Society seal. Secretary's and treasurer's reports of the previous meeting were read and accepted.

President Patty asked for a report from the "Intermittant Sales" group (which group at the moment seems to consist of Virginia Arnold, Eleanor Smith, Jane Markham). Virginia stated the group is working on some future plans which will be announced in the Newsletter.

Roy Richmond gave three items to the Society including an iron hay fork. This is listed in Sears, Roebuck Catalogue (1908 edition) as a Short Tine Double Harpoon Hay Fork.

The second item was a clamp about 5' long and equipped with a large wooden screw vise used in the manufacture of table tops and doors. (It was guessed to be about a hundred years old). Also, there was an iron inkwell cover found at the original Bell School site.

Moving to the program, President Patty spoke briefly about the contrast between dating in her young days and the current liberal attitudes of youngsters. Then she mentioned the custom of "bundling" used in courting in earlier generations: in necessarily cold rooms, they crawled into bed, usually with a board between them and kept warm by means of quilt over them.

Virginia Arnold opened the program on "Quiltmaking" by explaining that quilts are usually made of three layers: top, lining and backing. The two types of tops are generally patchwork and/or quilted. A tacked or tied quilt is considered a comforter.

The filling or lining used to be of cotton batting, straw, feathers or sometimes wool. Now it is usually a polyester batting or a blanket. The backing is made of several wide strips or a whole piece such as a sheet.

Patchwork is American. Out of necessity, good parts of used clothing or scraps of new material left over from garment making were used. Patchwork can be "crazy work" (using every scrap of material as is) or can be definite pattern made of squares, triangles, etc. Quilts may be appliqued; pieces are laid out in designs, edges turned and hand-sewn to larger pieces of cloth. This probably started when patches were applied to worn spots.

Quilting, the stitching, is very old. It was used by Roman soldiers before 14pp who wore padded or quilted coats and the Chinese have worn quilted garments for ages. Dutch and English settlers brought quilting to America. It was used in all-white quilts, petticoats, curtains, etc. to block out the cold and drafts. These long and tedious projects brought about the "quilting bees".

Pam Simmons, of Carolina, was then introduced. She displayed a commemorative quilt, graciously loaned by the East Greenwich Preservation Society, depicting architectural, geological, historical points of interest, an impressive log of that town.

Pam explained, "The settlers were really quite inventive, though they lacked some finish they used every means they had. Quilting and applique really flourished from 1775 - 1885."

She continues. Quilting bees became social events where people gathered to work on wedding quilts, friendship quilts, and freedom quilts. These last were given to the young men in the community when they reached 21.

Arranged carefully for display was Pam's grandmother's mother's quilt, made of inch squares and small rectangles into a random geometric pattern.

Pam's interest in quilting, her concern for Clark Memorial Library and her formal art education prompted a request from the Library to design a commemorative quilt for Richmond.

Pam has launched the project with drawings of some of our historical buildings. Volunteers are invited to embroider the designs onto cloth blocks of a prescribed size. Virginia had done a block of the Richmond Town Seal. Pam would like other people's opinions on subjects that should go into this quilt. She asked for embroiderers and stated that Lynne Lynch of Chariho School offered to give her time to a meeting on the subject.

Next, Virginia displayed pillows she had made: one with a top in a kaleidoscope design, and one in a crazy-work pattern which won a blue ribbon at Washington County Fair.

A quilt, made by her grandmother before 1890, was a handsome crazy-work pattern, richly embroidered, done in silks and velvets.

Speaking briefly about the construction of each, she passed around a pot holder-sized, partially finished quilt showing three layers, and sample quilt blocks in several Log Cabin designs, the Ninepatch, Rose Cross in applique and a stuffed Biscuit pattern. A charmer was a yellow stuffed Teddy Bear appliqued on muslin.

Another quilt, made of rectangles and quilted, very old, very used told it's own story of hard work and endurance. Also, there was a new crib quilt featuring appliqued and embroidered barn-yard animals.

Virginia concluded by saying that she hoped the program had been stimulating enough to encourage some to start a quilt, and to eventually lead to courses in "Quilting" at the Bell School Museum.

At the adjournment of the meeting, cake, cookies and coffee were served and quilts, samples and books on quilting were further examined.

BUNDLING dates back before Christianity, viewed as perhaps a test of integrity in the face of extreme temptation. There were two forms: night visits as a form of wooing, and a more spiritual interpretation which allowed intimacy between persons under a celibacy taboo of some nature.

During the 12th century, the custom was encouraged and young ladies who did not have an access to their bedroom were not held with esteem. Should the gentleman visiting his lady in her bed in any way harm her, he was mobbed, wounded, or killed, so the incentive for good behavior was rather strong!

The custom prevailed in Northern Europe, England, Scotland and Wales and continued until the late 1700's. There is an occasional historic observance of the custom in some countries today.

Always carrying an element of frolic and fun, the custom was associated with poverty and the peasant class -- working people had no time during the day for wooing. -- Patty

BUNDLING: to lie in the same bed with one's sweetheart without undressing; a former courting custom, esp. in New England.

-- Webster

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NEXT MEETING:

TUESDAY, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bell School Museum.

Following the business session, the Morgan family will demonstrate their "Caning and Weaving of Chair Seats". Also, Carolyn Stoner has researched and prepared a narration on the history of this early art.

Collation committee will be Mrs. Hope Blaine as chair; Frank and Yvonne Dawley, Stuart and Betty Kenyon.

SCHEDULED PROGRAMS:

April - "Roads" by Carl Richard

May - "Locks" by Robert Jordan

A "THANK YOU" is hereby extended to the February refreshment committee who served home-made cookies and little cakes with a choice of coffee or tea. Patty regrets having neglected to mention this at the meeting as is usually done.

LOOKING AHEAD: FIRST OF HOME-ART DEMONSTRATIONS

On Tuesday, March 27 from 12 to 4 p.m. "QUILTMAKING" will be in process at the Bell School Museum.

Quilts, in some stage, will be worked on by Amey Payne, Mildred Chatalian and Virginia Arnold.

The public is invited to attend anytime during the afternoon to observe the quilt demonstration and to ask question on the projects.

DEMONSTRATIONS on lade-making and wool-working (spinning and weaving) are planned for the last Tuesdays in April and May.

INTERMITTENT SALES will have items made at home by Society members to be sold on a consignment basis, each demonstration day.

SHAKER ARTIFACTS EXHIBIT

will be open through March 16 at the Rhode Island College in Providence. The Exhibit in the Bannister Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

HIGHLIGHTS OF FEBRUARY MEETING

Twenty six persons attended the regular meeting held in the Council Chamber at the Richmond Town Hall with President Patty Millar conducting.

Reports of secretary, treasurer and committee chairs were accepted.

President Millar announced that a State Grant for funds to be used for Heritage Month(May) had been applied for, the results of which are being awaited.

Program speaker, Attorney Frank Williams, a Richmond resident and President of the Lincoln Group of Boston, presented a variety of anecdotes, quotations and excerpts from history of Abraham Lincoln. He noted that Lincoln passed through Richmond on the train twice between 1848 -1860, but probably did not know of the existence of Richmond. He spoke in Providence then visited his son at a Prep School for Harvard.

Carl Sandburg, American poet and biographer, wrote of Lincoln as the man of steel and velvet.

Mr. Williams spoke of Lincoln's religion: "When I do something good; I feel good; when I do something bad, I feel bad". And that was his religion. Of Small-Pox, Lincoln said "Now I have something I can give to everybody".

"As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master" - Lincoln.

The speaker continued. Lincoln's boyhood was rather grim but later as a lawyer in Springfield, he lived well. His step-mother encouraged book reading. Lincoln perhaps had not more than a year of schooling in "blab" schools.

After 21, Lincoln turned his back on hard work, but did not turn his back on laborers.

Lincoln was known for his decency, honesty, plain talk and funny stories.

A Westerly Sun reporter and a photographer were present at the meeting resulting in an appreciable article in Monday's issue on Mr. Williams and Mr. Lincoln.

HANDICRAFT

according to Webster: an occupation or art calling for skilled use of the hands.

To the human hand, with its thumb and articulating fingers, we owe much!

The machine, on which we so rely, was built by hand, and is repaired by hand.

A tool is an extension of the hand.

And today, in our highly developed culture, we find the machine and the hand as dependent on each other, but -- the HAND comes first!

We all depend on the mass production of machines in factories but handwork provides a needed independent satisfaction.

At home, men and women have always made things which they could not afford to buy, including farm machinery and tools, clothing and household items, from obtainable materials.

As the work progresses, the more skilled is the item, and the worker finds a trade value in handicraft.

There is a two-fold value involved: the self satisfaction and an economic satisfaction. - Editor

BLAB SCHOOL:

the pupils all studied their lessons out loud so that the teacher would know they were working. - ENCYCLOPEDIA

ON WASHING YOUR HEIRLOOM QUILT

That quilt of yours, whether new or old, is far more than a throw or bed cover; it is a work of art which deserves special handling and care.

Most old quilts are all cotton or wool, or a combination of both.

Wool present in any amount dictates that the entire piece should be treated as wool and dry cleaning is recommended.

Request that the quilt be reserved until a fresh supply of dry cleaning solution is used (usually one a week or more often, so this does not mean a long wait*).

If you do attempt hand washing at home, use lukewarm to warm water for both wash and rinse waters and soak the quilt with as little agitation as possible in a wool cleaner.

Do not hang to dry, but lay the quilt out on a flat surface.

Cotton quilts may be cleaned at home, but only after a dye test for colorfastness has been made.

Mix a solution of 1 teaspoon cold water detergent in a quart of water, then with a medicine dropper or a cotton-tipped stick drop or rub a drop or two of solution on an inconspicuous place on a color patch, wait 5 seconds, then press the area between two layers of white tissue. Then check for traces of color transfer.

If any one of the colors bleeds, do not attempt cleaning it yourself.

A nylon mesh bag a little larger than your quilt will help prevent rubbing and twisting during washing.

A solution of $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons cold water detergent per gallon lukewarm water and a 30 minute soak is recommended.

Gentle agitation for 3 minutes may be used. If soil still remains, repeat cycle. Rinse thoroughly in cool water.

If occasional spots or stains bother you, don't let them!

These areas may have undergone chemical changes and an attempt to remove the spots may easily result in removal of the fabric. It is better to leave these spots.

The lovely velvets and silks often used in Victorian crazy quilt patchwork require special treatment. Consult with a reputable dry cleaner or a textile expert. - Patricia Millar

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NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, April 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bell School Museum.
"UNLOCKING DOORS TO THE PAST" will be the program topic by
Robert Jordan, one of our members. He will exhibit and tell
about his collection of locks.

Collation committee: Mr. and Mrs. William Stetson as chair-
men, Mrs. Margery Schunke, Miss Gladys Segar.

789-0477

539-7501

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday, April 24 from 12 to 4 p.m. "LACE-MAKING" will be
presented at the Bell School Museum as the second in the series
of Home Art DEMONSTRATIONS.

Bobbin Lace will be made by Millie Chatalian. Ruth Potter
of the Hope Valley Homemakers will exhibit her collection of
assorted lace items. Vivien Rathbun has been invited to demon-
strate the art of tatting and Evelyn Mathieu will show her
macrame.

The public is invited to the demonstration and exhibit during
the afternoon.

INTERMITTENT SALES of hand-made gift items made by Richmond
Historical Society members will be sold on a commission basis
during demonstration hours.

HERITAGE MONTH: MAY

In observance of Heritage Month, activities are planned for
each Tuesday in May at the Bell School Museum. Suggestions were
made at the Executive meeting on March 28.

Plans for May 1 and May 8 are not complete at this writing,
but announcements will be made in local newspapers.

May 15 at 7:30 p.m. - "Finding Your Way Around Richmond" will
be the program at the regular meeting when Carl Richard will
speak about our town's roads and highways.

May 22 at 1 p.m. - Lillian Poston will speak on "History of
Growing and Uses of Herbs". Also, there will be herb plants
available for sale.

May 29 from 12 to 4 p.m. - A "Wool-Working" DEMONSTRATION
TO INCLUDE CARDING, SPINNING AND WEAVING IS PLANNED.

NEWSLETTERS

are sent to sixty-one subscribers at present.

HIGHLIGHTS OF MARCH MEETING

Seventeen persons attended the 7:30 p.m. meeting held in the Bell School Museum. President Patricia Millar conducted the business session.

The Arbutus Garden Club has offered to set and maintain a garden of old fashioned shrubs on the Bell School grounds.

It was announced at the meeting that Patty Millar was elected to be Director of the Bell School Museum during the Executive session on February 28. :

The program was a working demonstration on "Weaving and Caning" of chair seats by Morgan's Woodworking Shop. The Morgans showed various types of seatings. Terry demonstrated the fibre rushing; Louis worked with Hong Kong Grass while Ronny did the caning.

Carolyn Stoner prepared and read a History on Caning.

(Following is a condensed version of her reading).

Caning was popular with the Shaker communities in New England, New York and some mid-Atlantic states. For their chairs, the Shakers used cane, rush and woven splint of which cane is considered the most durable.

Caning was introduced into England sometime after 1660 by King Charles II who brought it from the continent where he had been in exile.

Caning was used in furniture by the craftsman Thomas Sheraton.

In 1845, the Hayward Brothers of the United States developed a loom which imitated the woven appearance of true caning.

Although the genuine cane and rattan have been replaced by synthetics and the art has been imitated in fabric, caning has historically proven to be a useful, durable and beautiful craft requiring time, patience and ~~XXXX~~ skill.

Refreshments of cookies, cakes and coffee were served. Yvonne Dawley was taken sick that day, so Jane Markham came to the rescue and furnished delicious cupcakes.

REPORT ON MARCH DEMONSTRATION

The "QUILTMaking DEMONSTRATION" on March 27 was well attended (24 persons signed the guest list). Several visitors indicated interest in a "quiltmaking course".

Photographers arrived from The Providence Journal and The Westerly Sun which resulted in favorable publicity for the Home-Art series.

Many thanks are extended to the willing workers who sat from 12 to 4 p.m. at their tables and sewed and answered "quilt" questions.

Amey Paine worked on a quilt-as-you-go Dresden Plate, Millie Chatalian was piecing blocks for Windmill pattern, Virginia Arnold showed quilting on a PinWheel crib quilt.

Amey exhibited a crib quilt and pillow in the Baby Block pattern. Quilt block samples of Dresden Plate, Log Cabin, Rose and Cross, and Crazy Work were shown. An embroidered quilt showing each of the United States with state flower and bird (made by Loyal Workers of the Rockvill Church) was displayed.

Jane Markham managed the sale table (cookies, bread, aprons, pot holders, pillows, plants, and more). And \$10.90 was gained for the Society's treasury. Hot coffee was served free.

SHIFT MARRIAGES (From Betkin's New England Folklore)

It was an old English custom, when a widow was married, clad only in her shift, to avoid hampering her new husband with her old debts.

This was common in New England and occurred in other states, too. The ceremonies usually took place at night to save the bride undue embarrassment.

One such marriage is recorded to have taken place where the three towns of North Kingstown, South Kingstown and Exeter meet.

On March 11, 1717, did Philip Shearman take the widow Hannah Clarke in her shift, without any other Apparel, and led her across the Highway, as the Law directs in such Cases and was then married according to law by me.

William Hall, Justice

Registered at Town Hall, South Kingstown, R.I. there is an entry of a shift-marriage:

Thomas Calverwell was joyned in marriage to Abigail Calverwell his wife the 22, February, 1719-20. He took her in marriage after she had gone four times across the highway in only her shift and hairlace and no other clothing. Joyned together in marriage by me.

George Hazard, Justice

At Hopkinton, in 1780 David Lewis married Widow Jemima Hill, "where four roads meet", at midnight, she being dressed only in her shift. This was to avoid payment of Hysband Hill's debts.

In Richgend, ten years later, Widow Sarah Collins appeared in the twilight in a long shift, a special wedding shift covering her to her feet, and was then and thus married to Thomas Kenyon.

In Westerly, Nathanel Bundy took ye Widow Mary Parmenter of sd. town on ye highway with no other clothing but shifting or smock on ye Evening of ye 20 day of April, 1724 and was joined together in that honorable Estate of matrimony in ye presence of

John Sanders, Justice

The use of the word "smock" recalls the fact that in England these marriages were always called smock marriages.

Although seemingly degrading, these ceremonies were considered as being done "according to the law".

From Alice Merse Earle's "Customs and Fashions in New England" In New England, it was thought if the bride were married "in her shift on the king's highway", a creditor could follow her person no farther in pursuit of his debt. Many such eccentric "smock-marriages" took place, generally (with some regard for modesty) occurring in the evening.

ACCORDING TO WEBSTER:

SHIFT: (Now Rare) a woman's slip; a loose dress that hangs straight with no waistline.

SNOCK: a loose, shirt-like, outer garment worn to protect the clothes.

HAIRLACE: not listed in recent dictionaries, but presumed to be what is now known as a hairnet; or a fine-meshed cap to keep the hair in place.

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NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, May 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bell School Museum.

"FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND RICHMOND" will be the program subject by Carl Richard, a member of our society. He will tell us about the "Roads and Highways" in our town.

Collation committee will be Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jordan as chairmen, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Richmond, Mr. William Carpenter.

NEW MEMBERS

Our newest members are Mr. and Mrs. Frank and Virginia Williams. Frank was our February guest speaker.

ANNUAL DUES

are now payable. For membership, send \$3.00 to Herbert L. Arnold, treasurer, Usquepaugh, West Kingston, R.I. 02892.

PAINTING GIVEN

Kathryn (Katy) Baton of Rockville, R.I. has painted and given to our Society, a very nice picture of the Bell School; with the present Richmond Elementary School in the background. The painting was shown at the April meeting of the Richmond Historical Society.

Ray Bader has offered to make a wood frame for the painting after which it may be hung in the Bell School Museum for all to enjoy!

LOOKING AHEAD

May 22 at 1 p.m. - History of Growing and Uses of Herbs, a lecture by Lillian Poston of Hopkinton.

May 29 from 12 to 4 p.m. - WOOL-WORKING DEMONSTRATION and INTERMITTENT SALES, WITH Jane Markham carding and spinning; Ruth Rathbun of Hopkinton, loom weaving; Heather Whiston of Exeter, off-loom weaving; Virginia Arnold and Willie Chastalian, crocheting and knitting on wool.

Also, there will be an exhibit of finished items made of wool.

HIGHLIGHTS OF APRIL MEETING

At 7:30 p.m. April 17, Ray and Ida had the fire going, 19 people were in attendance, but -- the officers' table was missing. After a short consultation, much confusion and moving around in the rain, the table was located at the Town Hall shed. It had been used during the recent "dog clinic".

President Patty was absent, Secretary Jane was absent, Vice-president Roland was at a Town meeting so, Treasurer Herbert opened the meeting at 8 p.m. Past president Ida was

- OOPS!

President Patty was absent, Secretary Jane was absent, Vice-president was absent, so, Treasurer opened the meeting at 8 p.m. Past President Ida was the temporary secretary.

Guests at the meeting were Dr. and Mrs. Harold Browning from Kingston, Mrs. Dianne Smith and grandson from Wakefield, Miss Gladys Palmer from Hope Valley, Mr. and Mrs. Jocelyn of Richmond.

On a motion by Raymond Bader and Robert Jordan, it was voted that the Society purchase its own table (the present one is borrowed from the Town Hall). Herbert volunteered to ~~arrange~~ arrange the purchase as soon as possible.

The program was "Unlocking Doors to the Past" by Robert Jordan, one of our members. Robert had on exhibit a large collection of locks. Some of the locks were very rare and old. For each lock he had records of history and sources of information. This was a very interesting project and exhibit.

Refreshments were served following the program by Mr. and Mrs. William Stetson as chairmen.

REPORT ON LAST MONTH'S LACE DEMONSTRATION

Among the visitors at the demonstration were teachers Mrs. Salisbury, Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Gould from Richmond Elementary School and their(3) classes of second graders with all their enthusiasm!

It is doubtful if the Bell School ever accommodated that many youngsters at any one time since its existence. They were interested, quite well mannered and probably all talking at the same time except when a teacher spoke above them, and a great HUSH came down over all - for a few minutes.

The boys and girls asked questions on lace making and from the conversation there are numerous grandmothers in the area who do the same thing (crocheting, etc.). One little girl noted that her grandmother had made two afghans, one was loose and not too warm, the other not so loose and is warm!

Also, about a dozen adults visited, some eagerly tried tatting or crocheting. It was apparent that hand made lace is rather a mystery to most people, especially among young adults. It is sometimes referred to as a dying art, but from recent newspaper and magazine articles it may soon enjoy a revival somewhat as in quilting during recent years.

Vivian Mathison displayed delicate tatted items including baby's bonnets, booties and edgings; Millie Chaslikian showed doilies made in fine bobbin lace of linen thread and Evelyn Mathieu exhibited her macrame items. Ruth Potter's lace collection included Irish crocheted collar and cuff sets, tatted doilies, and a pair of lace gloves.

Jane Markham managed the sale table of hand made things, also, homemade bread and cookies. Sales were not as lively as in March, but we look forward to better days.

SOME NOTES ON WOOL

Wool was produced on many farms and the women of the family were not only capable of but were expected to take the wool as it came from the sheep and "every last bit" of it even the tag locks. Then follow the cleansing, carding, and spinning of it into yarn and weaving it into cloth, from which the clothes of the family were cut and made.

Carding was done with hand cards and the carded rolls were spun into yarn upon the hand wheel. A good day's yield was five skeins. The yarn was woven into cloth on a hand-loom which was so large that it occupied a great deal of room.

When the spun yarn was to be knitted, it was generally colored before using. The dye pot was of earthenware and had its place in the chimney corner just inside the fireplace. It was covered with a piece of board or plank on which the children often sat.

Together with the testing of all her other skills and her resourcefulness the housewife was challenged in the field of chemistry. It was her duty not only to supply all the materials which her family wore, but also to color, by dyeing, the musty-yellow, dingy looking skeins of yarn. ~~Since~~ Since she had no packet of tints or dyes, she had to rely upon the indigenous plants for her source of dye supplies.

Her sole aid was indigo which reached our shores almost as quickly as she did; for a mordant she had to use what was at hand.

With surprising speed, she soon learned that by spinning together one-third white lamb's wool, one third black sheep's wool and one-third wool dyed in indigo, she could produce a soft gray.

To obtain color, Butternut bark made a beautiful brown, Alder bark made a seal brown, birch bark gave a gunmetal gray. Yellow-root, barberry bark and saffron made yellow. It always took two things to make green. Elderberries and purple flag gave lavender.

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ANNUAL MEETING:

Tuesday, June 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Carolina Fire Station.
Covered dish dinner; annual reports of officers; election and installation of officers for coming year; program by Ted and Helen (Gould) Smith on Hunting for The Smith Ancestral Homestead in England.

Please remember to bring your individual place setting of plate, cup, and silver as well as a favorite casserole, or a salad, or a dessert, or whatever!

Covered dish dinner will be arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Hank Handell, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Arnold. Hank has consented to make JONNY CAKES again this year and Herbert will make coffee. Jean and Virginia will gather the makings for the above and probably help set up tables and dust chairs, etc.

A slate of officers will be presented by the nominating committee Virginia Arnold, Robert Jordan, Roland Morgan.

Following the election, the new officers will be installed by Mrs. Sidney Lees of the Hopkinton Historical Society.

ANNUAL DUES

~~ANNUAL DUES~~

are now payable. To renew membership in the Richmond Historical Society, send \$3.00 to Herbert L. Arnold, treasurer, Usquepaugh, West Kingston, R.I. 02892.

NEWEST MEMBERS

are Mr. and Mrs. John Healy, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gardiner.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

In May, Mr. Arthur Barber of Shannock (cousin to Mrs. Elizabeth (Barber) Smith of Wyoming) presented the Society with a box of very interesting and very old books which are being listed by Carolyn Stoner, archivist.

Also, Mrs. Barbara Rawlings sent to the Society a box of wooden, geometric and other shaped blocks which have been kept in her closet at the Richmond Elementary School for many years. Mrs. Rawlings has used these blocks in her class room projects but believes they were previously used by students in the Bell School, therefore she has returned them.

MEMORIAL PLANTINGS

The Arbutus Garden Club moved their Memorial Shrubs to the Bell Schoolyard last week. Sonja Pearson Kenyon spoke on the project at the recent Executive meeting and noted that there is more work to be done on the garden in the near future.

This potential beauty spot is a welcome addition to the Bell School property and the Society is very grateful to the Arbutus Garden Club.

NEW TABLE

which was voted on at the April meeting has been delivered to the Bell School Museum.

DEMONSTRATION and SALE

June 26, Tuesday from 12 to 4 p.m.- HAND EMBROIDERY DEMONSTRATION and INTERMITTENT SALES. This will be the fourth of the Home Art series being held at the Bell School Museum.

On embroidery, there will be several types shown including English smocking and crewel. It would be impossible to cover "embroidery" in one day; this may be continued at another demonstration. One of our members suggested that an "embroidery group" be started.

The INTERMITTENT SALE set up each Demonstration Day has some fine and interesting items made by members of the Society. These are sold on a commission basis, the commission goes directly to the treasury.

The sales are intended to provide part-time workers at home with an outlet for their work, and to encourage a continued interest in the valuable home arts.

Potted plants, aprons, pot-holders, stuffed pillows and toys, little girls' smocked dresses, crocheted dolls, home-grown dried herbs, home-made bread and cookies are usually included in the sale.

HISTORICAL FAIR, SATURDAY, JULY 21

The annual Fair is being planned for July 21, Saturday in the Bell Schoolyard when DEMONSTRATIONS and miscellaneous sale tables will be set up by members and friends of the Society.

HERBS

The lecture on "History of Growing and Uses of Herbs" by Lillian Poston on May 22 was most interesting to the dozen who attended. Three Society members were there and others were from out of town, one from North Stonington.

Lillian arrived with baskets of fragrant cuttings and potted herbs. She showed one colonial herb after another, passed them among the audience one-by-one for pinching, sniffing, etc. She told of the uses for each and gave several recipes for teas, and some for external medication.

Almost everyone took notes on uses of the common herbs. It is amazing at what has grown wild all these years, and may be used for very practical purposes. Lillian should write a book!

HIGHLIGHTS OF MAY MEETING

The May meeting of the Richmond Historical Society was held in the Bell School May 15 with 16 persons attending. President Patty Millar conducted the business session which consisted primarily of much discussion on several topics; listing acquisitions, some items for Newsletter, window shades, nominating committee, mowing the lawn, dues and new members, annual meeting and annual Fair.

Reports of the secretary and treasurer were heard and accepted. Archivist Caroline Stoner reported that genealogical inquiries on Bliven and Congdon families had been made.

Members voted to purchase and install dark shades at all eight windows. The president called for an Executive meeting on May 30 at the Bell School Museum.

The evening program was on "Roads in Richmond" by Carl Richard. He showed several large maps which indicated roads as they developed in the Town. He noted that the old roads were at first a right-of-way. A driftway, originally for driving of cattle was private, but public used it until finally it was likely to become a town highway.

He made an example of the Beaver River Road. It was a driftway with bars at the separate farm lines. Later, the town of Richmond paid property owners and made it a public way.

Following the program, refreshments of fresh-made, blue-berry coffee cake and fruit punch were provided by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jordan.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

were held at the Bell School Museum each Tuesday during Heritage Month (May).

A Wool-Working Demonstration was held on May 29 with a sale. Eighteen persons attended during the afternoon. Several were willing to try a hand at spinning wool or learning a new crochet stitch. The woven and knitted shawls, sweaters, caps, etc. were interestingly admired. Some were fragrant(?) of sheep since they were made of unwashed, natural wool.

The sale table gained \$2.73 for the treasury.

And the weather was ideal!

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

Virginia Arnold, Editor
 Usquepaugh, R.I. 02892

"RICHMOND HISTORICAL FOOD and CRAFT FAIR at BELL SCHOOL"

Saturday, July 21 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Rain Date is Sunday, July 22.

PLEASE, won't you contribute to our annual Fair?

You may make something for the BAKE table, or if you do not find time for baking, a contribution to our yearly fund raising project will be very much appreciated. Profits from the Fair are to be used to furnish and improve the Bell School Museum. Contributions may be mailed to Herbert L. Arnold, treasurer.

Virginia Arnold is the Fair chairman, since Mildred Chatalian resigned from the committee several weeks ago. Other committee members are Jane Markham, Patty Millar and Jean Handell will manage the bake table. A planning meeting was held July 5 at the Bell School on posters, exhibit and sale arrangements. The Bake sale will depend on donations and all proceeds from it will go to the treasury. Other sale tables will operate on a commission basis with 25% of the proceeds going to the treasury.

A hand-knitted AFGHAN, made by Linda Morgan, has been donated by the Roland Morgan family to be raffled off during the Fair. Tickets are on sale now at .50 each.

More than a dozen exhibitors have been invited to show their crafts at the Fair. There will be working craft demonstrations, refreshments, craft and food sales during the day. There will be an archivist's exhibit inside the school, plus the Richmond 1870 maps and "Driftways of the Past" sales.

MEMBERSHIPS

At present our Society has 59 family memberships. About 25 have paid dues for the new year beginning June 1, 1979 and continue to June 1, 1980.

Send \$8.00 for annual dues to Herbert L. Arnold, treas.,
 Usquepaugh, West Kingston, R.I. 02892.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

of the Society was held at the Carolina Fire Station, preceded by a covered dish supper, Tuesday, June 19. Everything was quite delicious, especially the Jonny Cakes which were made by Hank Handell.

Officers were elected as follows:

Patricia A. Millar was reelected the president; and Robert Jordan, vice-president; Jane Markham, secretary; Herbert L. Arnold, treasurer; members at large, Ray Bader for three years and Roland Morgan for one year to finish the unexpired term of Pricilla Phillips. The installing officer was Mrs. Jeannie Lees, past president of the Hopkinton Historical Society.

President Millar noted that Henry Boucher had served as a member at large since the Society was organized in 1968 and announced that he was to be presented with a gift certificate in appreciation of his long service. Henry had declined the nomination for a new term.

Following the business session, Ted and Helen Smith of Hopkinton, told of their experiences while "Hunting the Smith Homestead" called "Nook" in England. They flew to England last year for a two-week's venture and were successful in finding the farmhouse where Ted's father was born in Keighly in northern England. They showed a map designating their motor trip from London to Keighly. They also showed colored pictures of the property and stone farmhouse.

Dear Members,

1978-79 was a year of challenge for the Richmond Historical Society like some land owners in years gone by who disputed over boundaries, were regretfully notable to mend all our fences and there were some hours of despair when it looked as if our Society was doomed.

However, when faced with goals to be reached, strong objectives to be met, and confidence in the need for our work in preserving the heritage of Richmond, old and new talents combined to solidify our ranks. A large vote of heartfelt thanks goes to the officers and members who rallied around either with physical labor, writing talents, research abilities or faithful support to help make this year a resounding success.

Our big project of course was the Bell School, which has been restored and opened to the public as a museum. The work is not done of course until the building has been furnished with school desks, slates, teacher's desk and all the appointments pertinent to a one-room school. We are currently working on this phase of the project.

Our regular public meetings and committee meetings are held in the building and it has been used for a number of successful educational craft programs this Spring.

Programs have included collections, national history; genealogy, early crafts, town developments and historic costumes. A local field trip added to our knowledge of the past and allowed us to view current environmental management practices. Interest in all these activities has been high.

Your confidence in our work has been encouragingly expressed by increased membership and prompt renewals of membership. With our major goal achieved we are now looking at some exciting new projects for the year to come. Watch for more in these future columns.

Sincerely,
Your President

A WEDDING AT SCHOOL

Carolyn M. Stoner and Carl E. Richard were married in the Bell School Museum Friday, July 6. Attendants for the couple were Ray and Ida Bader.

Judge Charles F. Trumpetto of Sixth District Court in Providence officiated at the morning ceremony. The floral decoration was a Boston Fern plant centered by a stand of white carnations tied with white satin streamers, a gift of the Richmond Historical Society.

The bride is Richmond's Town Clerk and also is the Society's archivist.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard, both members of the Richmond Historical Society, are at home in Shannock, R.I.

Best wishes to Carolyn and Carl.