

Vol. II. No. 7 : L.R. Tootell, Wyoming, R.I. 02898 DECEMBER 1969

NEXT RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOWN MEETING

The Twentieth Town Meeting of the Richmond Historical Society will be held Tuesday evening, January 13th at 8 P.M. in the Richmond Town Hall. HENRY BOUCHER WILL GIVE EXCERPTS FROM THE HOPE VALLEY ADVERTISER AND THE WOOD RIVER ADVERTISER.

COLLATION COMMITTEE

The Collation Committee for the next town meeting will be: Mr. & Mrs. Richard Millar, Co-Chairmen; Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Handell, & Mr. & Mrs. John Machon.

See Volume I-page 11 for instructions. Also members should check Volume II-page 23 to remind them as to when they are to be on the Refreshment Committee.

NEXT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

The next Executive Council meeting of the Richmond Historical Society will be held at the home of Lucy Rawlings Tootell on Wednesday evening, January 28th at 8 P.M.

100 YEARS AGO IN THE NARRAGANSETT TIMES - September 1869

By Oliver Stedman

The Plainville Mill in Richmond suffered severely in the gale. The smoke stack was blown across the dye house, crushed it in, and destroyed the tubs and vats and severed the connection to the steam boiler. The damage is estimated to be \$10,000.

At Carolina Mills the gale was very severe. The top of the church steeple was blown off and landed on the fence in front of Mr. J.H. Babcock's house leveling it to the ground. The Rev. G.K. Clarke's chimney crashed through the roof of his house and Mrs. Clarke was slightly injured by being hit by a flying brick.

JOIN OR REJOIN THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mail your check to
Charles J. Edmonds, Treasurer
Carolina, R. I.

Dues \$3.00 Family membership
Jan. 1 1.50
Mar. 1 3.00 includes next year

RICHMOND HISTORY
Lucy Rawlings Tootell
Wyoming, R.I., 02898

34. LAST TOWN MEETING--ABOUT CHRISTMAS BY MARION DAWLEY HAWKINS
By Virginia Arnold

"Holiday Reminiscences" was the topic of Mrs. Marion Dawley Hawkins who was the program speaker at the meeting of the Richmond Historical Society Tuesday night.

The fifth child in a family of eight youngsters, she grew up on a farm in the center of Richmond. Her audience was fascinated as she recalled the goings-on of her childhood many of which reminded listeners of some of their own experiences.

An original poem unfolded a story that began before she was born as she had heard it from older people. The poem told of the young couple, and of the first child, the grandparents who died, and the arrival of each of seven other children.

Fifty years ago, Thanksgiving was a holiday in itself and Christmas seemed a long way off. There was a mystery during the weeks before Christmas. Pa and brothers marked the right white-pine tree. Mother put away her rug working and took up sewing. Pa disappeared during the evenings - later it was revealed that he had been busy in the woodshed making sleds and other gifts. The children gathered greens to make wreaths for all the front windows. The RFD carriers, John Cottrell, annually delivered a huge box from the Boston cousin who was in the confectionery business. The children were allowed to shake it to assure themselves from the rattle that hard candy was inside. Unopened, it was whisked away, out of sight, only to reappear on the holiday.

About this time of year, a great stalk of green bananas was brought from a fruit peddler. They were kept in the dark, unused front entry from which Pa doled the fruit out as it ripened.

She told of her parents going shopping, probably in Hope Valley, since they could not have gone much farther with a horse and wagon.

The family annually attended the Sunday School Christmas Tree when the church was packed, although heated only with a wood stove.

There was the long walk to the Beaver River School with her sister and brothers who all excused early "to get home before dark." The brothers went skating on the pond between school and home, while two little sisters sat on a cold rock waiting, nearly freezing and yet not daring to tell.

She told of her Shetland pony, Echo, won as a prize in selling magazine subscriptions. She rode the pony for lessons from the piano teacher and practiced "piano" at home on the parlor organ.

Most everything was made at home-except shoes and boots. Marion displayed a white, fine linen handstitched tea apron, an embroidered linen towel, a crocheted thimble and thread holder, a handmade needlebook with blanket stitch, handcarved wooden toys, and several small dolls, all ideal gift items. There were photo albums, with pictures of the family, the pony, and the family home.

A recipe was given for an old-fashioned candy made of molasses, a little vinegar, and butter. She noted that it tasted quite good, and added that it was very good for the bowels.

On Christmas Eve, children were sent upstairs early, with several in each bed to sleep under the handmade quilts and with a hot soap-stone to warm the feet.

(Continued on page 35)

The tree was set up in the seldom-used parlor. Decorations were made of paper, popcorn, and nuts. When the stockings were hung and Marion said, "I Hope they were clean, they were filled with fruit. Oranges, dates and such were to be had only at Christmas." She added, "Mother's Christmas was probably the extra bag of flour or other special things to cook with."

Christmas morning started early after a near-sleepless night. Children were allowed to look at tree and gifts, but not touch. There were chores to be done, the dinner to prepare, brook-ice to be chopped and brought in burlap bags for making the ice-cream. There was usually company for Christmas when the married brothers came home. The gifts waited till all else was done. There was usually one new toy for each child such as a top, harmonica, or a book.

"The thrill of it all," recalled the storyteller, "was the gifts we made for each other and the appreciation of those who received the gifts. It seemed to be the real spirit of Christmas."

(Continued from page 36) LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE

November 16, 1969

Written by Patricia Millar, Secretary
Richmond Historical Society

Little Red School House
National Park Service
Department of Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Sirs:

Your news release directed to State Park Services concerning little red school houses has been referred to us as we are presently deeply involved in a project concerning our own so-called little red school house.

The State of Rhode Island Park Services is undertaking to move Bell School, Richmond, from its original isolated location to a site adjacent to our town hall where it can be properly maintained and protected on State-owned property. The School Building has been preserved as such and is to be maintained as an historic site, serving as a museum and headquarters for the Richmond Historical Society which is cooperating with the State on the project.

The history of the school is being researched and the following data has been authenticated. The building was used as a school from 1825 until 1935, a period of 110 years. It also served as a community hall and a church school meeting place. It is the oldest school in Richmond and is the only one of fifteen which still stands as a school building. A complete history is being compiled on the school.

True, there is an aura of nostalgia surrounding these old schools, but in these days of centralization, regionalization, teaching machines, and school psychiatrists, the one-room school house stands as a significant part of the historic past. The beginnings of public education were sheltered here. The one-room "little red school house" is of definite historic value.

We feel that because of its age, length of use, and current history, Bell School in Richmond, Rhode Island, is well-qualified for National Historic recognition, even though it is not red!

36. OUR OWN LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE???

Mr. William Cotter, Department of State Parks & Services, sent the following letter to Mr. Rob Roy Rawlings, Chairman of the Bell School House Committee:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS RELEASE:

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE:

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ASKING FOR DATA ON LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSES

The little Red School House at Wakefield Corner, N.H., is an important part of the national cultural heritage and is worthy of designation as a Registered National Historic Landmark--according to resident historians of the 1,223-member town on the New Hampshire-Maine boundary, just east of Lake Winnepesaukee.

A nomination to that effect was sent to the Interior Department's National Park Service, Historic Sites Survey. It caught Park Service historians a bit off guard.

Some of them admit they think of Little Red School Houses with affection. But historic? They haven't adequately studied the proposition, or, as they say, they do not have "comparative studies of the kind needed to properly judge the relative merits of types of domestic architecture."

Nevertheless, the proposition posed by the people of Wakefield Corner, who may hold more affection for the school now than when they were pupils there, brings some nagging questions:

How many Little Red School Houses still stand? What was their prevailing style of architecture? Are any still in use? Which is the oldest?

For the record, the school house at Wakefield Corner was used without interruption from 1858 until 1941. Now it looks as if it could be used in a history lesson again.

The Park Service will get together a listing of Little Red School Houses if enough Little Red School House buffs will help supply the information. Write the Little Red School House, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

October 28, 1969

Mr. Rawlings turned the above letter over to the Society Executive committee. The Committee noted that the Bell School house was built in 1825 which makes it older than the above mentioned building and was used from 1825 to 1935 which would be 110 years in use which is also longer use than the above school.

At the last town meeting the above letter was read and a motion was passed to have the Secretary Patricia Millar write to the National Park Service about our School House.

The letter can be read on page 35.

(Continued on page 35)

THE SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF RICHMOND
SHANNOCK, RHODE ISLAND

II-37.

By
Marion Dawley Hawkins

(Continued from Vol. II. page 32)

An Act to incorporate the Second Baptist Church of Richmond was passed by the General Assembly at the May session 1858. The Church met July 24, 1858 for the purpose of organizing said church under the Act of Incorporation, and A.S. Kenyon was appointed Chairman, and William H. Perry, Secretary. The church named the following officers for that year: President John H. Baker (Pastor); Whipple King, Treasurer; William H. Perry, Secretary.

A set of by-laws were drawn up and adopted. A committee was appointed to investigate selling the old meeting-house, but the lot and timber were not to be sold. It is reported that the old meeting-house was sold in January 1859 at the cost of \$50.00. The present house of worship was then insured by the Providence Mutual Insurance Company.

In 1859 investigation was made regarding the purchase of Carolina Meeting House, but it was reported by the committee that "upon mature deliberation, and in view of the facts of the case, we do not think it expedient at present, for the Corporation to purchase the Carolina Meeting House.

In 1862 it was voted to sell the stone of the old Meeting House. Reverend J. H. Sherwin acted as pastor 1864 and 1865, then left to found a school for colored students in the nearby village of Carolina.

Rev. W. Hurst served the church satisfactorily from December 1, 1867 to Jan. 1, 1871. Following Rev. Hurst, Rev. J.H. Holman was called and served Feb. 1872. The church membership numbered 77 when Rev. Holman departed.

The three following years the church had no regular pastor, but the pulpit was filled by various ministers, not always of the same denomination.

Rev. Charley Weaver was called as pastor in June 1875 and served for six years. A personage was built during his ministry, and paid for by subscription.

In 1860 Aug. 26, it was voted to withdraw from the Warren Association that the church might unite with other churches in the southern part of the state, in forming a new Association, to be called the Narragansett Association. Delegates were sent first to the Warren Association, and then to the Narragansett Association, that the transaction might be handled in the proper manner.

It is stated that when pastor Weaver left, that many new members and some of long standing also left to join with other churches. This left the church in a weakened and discouraging condition.

Rev. L.S. Manning supplied the pulpit for six months after Rev. Weaver's departure, until Rev. Isaac Cheesebrough was called in Oct. 1881. He served until March 1885, when he was forced to resign due to poor health. There was a membership of 84 at that time. On November 25, 1883, Rev. Cheesebrough and the church clerk, prepared a historical sketch of the Second Baptist Church of Richmond, to be presented to the Narragansett Association at its next meeting. The historical sketch was accepted by a vote of the church Sept. 23, 1844. (continued on page 38)

38. (Continued from page 37) SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF RICHMOND

Several supply pastors filled the pulpit following Rev. Cheesbrough's departure, but a young, earnest and faithful minister of the Gospel by the name of Joseph R. Verry joined the church, and preached faithfully and well, and devoted much of his time and talent to the repairing and redecorating of the church. John S. Kenyon, one of the leading manufacturers of Richmond, engaged Elisha Card of Charlestown to do the wood work as the church members worked together to repair, paint, and reseat cushions. The renovation was completed at an approximate cost of \$3,000.00 on January 1887.

A bell costing \$135.00 was a donation to the church by Martin G. Parks Esq. of Shanneck. New lamps and a clock and various other things were included in the redecorating process.

A rededication service was held Feb. 27, 1887, and the church was fairly filled for the occasion. The State Colporter Brother J. B. Marsh, gave the dedicatory sermon.

Though Mr. Verry proved to be a sincere and enthusiastic worker and desired to be ordained, the Ecclesiastical Council of Churches advised that an ordination be postponed, due to Mr. Verry's lack of education.

The membership increased to 119 while Mr. Verry was there, and at a meeting held just before he left, he stated that he wished that the debt still owed from the renovating work might be payed off in full, and before the evening was over, more than enough money was pledged to take care of it all.

The church was in a prosperous condition in Sept. 1887, when Rev. Thomas Crocker took over the pastorate.

The first reference regarding the Rhode Island State Convention was noted in Sept. 1887, when Rev. Crocker was appointed to attend the annual meeting, to be held Oct. 4th, 1887, at the Stewart Street Baptist Church.

Improvements were made on the church grounds in the next three years, namely: sheds were built, steps were built in front of the church, grading was done, and a light board fence on the northeast boundary of the church building and also on the west boundary, with specific directions as to where they should be built. In 1890, an ell was built on the parsonage, and repairs made on the building. Also a well was dug for the parsonage. Pledges were solicited and the amount of \$700.00 was raised to pay for the project.

For a period of forty years the Second Baptist Church of Richmond was without a regular pastor, although it had its regular officers and services were held regularly with supply pastors.

A new stove was bought for the vestry in 1897. As a comparison in salaries of the present day to those in 1900, it is interesting to note that it was voted to pay Rev. H.A. Cornell a salary of \$500.00 a year, and use of the parsonage. Also he could have two Sundays a year off as a vacation.

On January 1901, it was voted to have the church property insured and the same year, Feb. 1901, the church was burned to the ground. The insurance money was accepted and placed in a bank by John Hopkins. A committee of five namely; J.S. Kenyon, Charles J. Greene, J.E. Lanphear, Rev. H.A. Cornell, and John Hopkins, were appointed by the church to consider plans for rebuilding a church.

(To be continued)

Vol. II, No. 8 L.R. Tootell, Wyoming, R.I. 02898 JANUARY 1970

NEXT RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOWN MEETING

The twenty-first Town Meeting of the Richmond Historical Society will be held Tuesday evening, February 10th at 8 P.M., in the Richmond Town Hall. HELEN EDMONDS BRUNSKILL will entertain us with a program on VALENTINES, LOVE STORIES, AND ROMANCES. Members and visitors are asked to bring any unique Valentines for the SHOW & TELL table and also be prepared to tell us about any great love stories in South County, especially Richmond.

COLLATION COMMITTEE

The Collation Committee for the next town meeting will be: Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Kenyon; Co-Chairmen; and Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Stedman.

See Volume I-page 11 for instructions. Also members should check Volume II, page 23 to remind them as to when they are to be on the Refreshment Committee.

NEXT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

The next Executive Council meeting of the Richmond Historical Society will be held at the home of Lucy Rawlings Tootell on Wednesday evening, February 25th at 8 P.M.

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. & Mrs. Harry C. Chatalian, Hillsdale Road, Richmond, R.I.

NEXT MEETING OF THE LEAGUE OF RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The next big meeting of the League will take place on Saturday, February 28, 1970 from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. It will be held at Cranston High School West, Metropolitan Drive, in Cranston. The cost will be around \$3.75. The subjects are all pertaining to the famous Spragues of Rhode Island i.e. manuscripts, furniture, art, Family history and a visit to the Sprague Mansion. If you are not on the personal mailing list of the League, call Lucy Tootell if interested in attending this meeting. (Tel. 539-7581).

SUGGESTED READING

Ishbel Ross, PROUD KATE. (New York: Harpers Bros., 1953).

JOIN OR REJOIN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mail your check to
Charles J. Edmonds, Treasurer
Carolina, Rhode Island

Dues	\$3.00	Family membership
Jan. 1	1.50	
Mar. 1	3.00	includes next year

RICHMOND HISTORY
Lucy Rawlings Tootell
Wyoming, R.I. 02898

The title this year is RHODE ISLAND AND THE SEA. The Richmond Historical Society is planning an appropriate exhibit to be held in May and also a Field Trip along one of the rare clear streams in our state, RHODE ISLAND'S UNPOLLUTED RIVER - BEAVER RIVER. The dates for these programs will be published later.

IMPORTANT ACQUISITIONS FROM THE DANIEL JAMES ESTATE

Mr. Charles A. McIntosh, 25 Osborn Street, Providence, R.I., custodian of the Daniel James Estate, has turned over some very valuable and interesting books, letters, pictures, etc. to the Richmond Historical Society. Mr. McIntosh felt that this would be what Danny would have desired. The items will be listed in a future news-letter after the Archivist, Eleanor Smith, has accessioned them and filed them in the Town Hall.

HOW ABOUT A FIELD TRIP TO WILLIAMSBURG?

If forty-one or more people were interested and could afford it, a bus tour to Williamsburg could be arranged at some future time this year and would prove most interesting and lots more fun with a group who were all historically minded. A chartered Bus could make special stops and would allow good planning to make the most of such a trip which should last at least three days.

If anyone is interested, call Lucy Tootell. If there are enough interested people, Lucy will make inquiries about the costs. Everyone should visit Williamsburg at some time in his life!

MORE ACQUISITIONS

Hope Blaine, West Kingston, R.I. and a member of our Society, has contributed several items of interest which will be published in more detail after accessioning. They consist of two South Kingstown Tax Books, 1864 and 1866; a booklet on PEN PICTURES OF NARRAGANSETT HISTORY by James N. Arnold which includes the comment, "... as a large portion of South Kingstown and Exeter is destitute of early history we shall dismiss them in a few words . . .": and several newspaper clippings.

By Virginia Arnold

"Where was the Elmville Mill?"

"News Items" from copies of the old Hope Valley Advertiser was the program by Henry Boucher at the Wednesday night meeting of the Richmond Historical Society.

"The bright light seen in the northeast on March 18, 1876, was caused by the burning of the Elmville Mill," read Mr. Boucher.

Not one among the society members had heard of Elmville; many curious guesses were made, but the question remains unanswered.

(Since the newspaper was printed in Hope Valley, a northeasterly direction would have taken in Wyoming, as well as the Bell School District where a cotton mill was located on the New London Turnpike near the Exeter line.)

Mr. Boucher read on:

Milk is selling at three cents a quart to the door; eggs, twenty cents per dozen; 2,000 pieces of cloth were shipped from the Brick Mill last Friday, and 1,000 pieces of print goods were shipped from Arcadia last Thursday over the Wood River Railroad.

On January 11, 1876, the mill, machinery and real estate of the Hope Valley Manufacturing Co., situated in Richmond, was sold to E. Milner of Plainville, R.I. for \$17,101. It was explained that this mill, formerly known as the Arnold Mill, was built in 1811, and was the third cotton mill in the United States. The first was the Slater Mill in Pawtucket and second was at Centreville.

Nichols & Langworthy Machine Shop at Hope Valley shipped last week over the Wood River Railroad, 11 engines and two boilers to the Centennial Fair at Philadelphia.

When a young farmer's wife made her first boy's pants precisely the same before as behind, the father exclaimed, "Goodness, he won't know whether he's going to school or coming home!"

WYOMING, Thursday, May 18, 1876-John L. Kenyon has the cellar nearly ready for a new house next to the Wyoming bridge. (The reader noted the house still stands, although empty).

At the Richmond Council meeting held June 5, 1876, a tax of 50 cents on each \$100 of ratable estate was ordered to defray expenses of the town; also a tax of 15 cents on each \$100 for repair of highways and bridges.

EXCURSION-About 120 persons from this place went to Rocky Point on the excursion steamer, Rhode Island, last Monday.

Large loads of cotton are constantly passing through the village for Rockville, Centreville, Arcadia and other villages upstream.

Court convened one day last week in the cigar store of W.D. Cross before Trial Justice E. A. Kenyon, Alfred Clark versus Wallace Stedman and Isaac Rodman, all of the lower village for damage sustained by the complainant.

(Continued on page 42)

42. (Continued from page 41) HENRY BOUCHER TALK

PLAINVILLE

PALINVILLE (now Alton) - Workmen, under the direction of B. S. Thayer, have been getting out stone for the past week for the foundation of a new stock house, 50 by 35 feet. Immediately upon its completion, the foundation of a 40-foot addition to the dye house will be laid.

At a recent meeting of District No. 14 (Palinville) it was voted to lengthen the schoolhouse by 36 feet and institute a graded school for the present year.

MILL BURNS - The fire seen in an easterly direction Monday evening, February 10, 1879, was the burning Hillsdale Mill. The mill was owned and operated by H. N. Kenyon for the manufacturing of blankets and satinettes; loss about \$10,000 - no insurance.

There was a marriage ceremony a quarter of a minute long at the Shannock Depot last Wednesday morning.

A Richmond farmer submitted the following as his tax inventory: one old farm, all out of repair; two sheep, one cow, a blind old mare; here you have my honest list, don't let the toll exceed the grist.

ADVERTISEMENTS - A nice summer coat for 50 cents at J. G. Arnolds.

Before you go to the Wood River Church Clambake, call at B.T. Segars and buy a very nice long linen duster for \$1.50; a fine white vest for \$.1.00, or if you desire something cheaper, a good linen vest for 25 cents.

SHANNOCK - Thursday September 18, 1879 - Clark Village has a telephone.

September 4, 1879 - The school house in the Bell District in Richmond has been thoroughly repaired, improved and newly painted; school commenced Monday of this week under the superior management of Mrs. Fannie James, a well-known and efficient teacher.

STRONG W.T.C.U. - The town of Richmond has the largest and most forceful temperance union any where in Rhode Island.

September 25, 1879 - A new race course is being laid out on the farm of C.B. Lillibridge in Richmond.

(Note: the home of the Society President, Lucy Rawlings Tootell, sits right on top of that old race track. C. B. Lillibridge lived in the old Carlton Smith House.)

USQUEP/UGH - 1879, In this vicinity there is an unusual amount of building and repairing going on, much more than for several years. Gideon Hoxsie has nearly completed his house on the place to the east of the village. James Webster is finishing his with a handsome mansard roof with dormer windows; such a roof is a rarity in this section (This house next to the Queen's River Baptist Church is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Cornell). There is scarcely an old-fashioned gambrel roof to break the monotony of the straight slanted one at an angle of 40 degrees. Nathan James has finished his home and the Rev. J. A. Woodmansee is building one at Dr. Waites' Corner, and the meeting house has been improved by a neat coat of paint. Others are also building and repairing.

(Continued on page 43)

FEW HOMES, MANY PERSONS - In 1810, the population of Westerly was 1,911 with 250 dwellings; Exeter, 2,254 persons with 311 dwellings; Charlestown, 1,174 with 220 dwellings; Hopkinton, 1,774 persons with 230 dwellings; Richmond had 1,330 persons with 230 dwellings.

Adv. - Mrs. George H. Barber, dress-maker and weaver of hair-puffs, curls, braids made to order.

ADV. - It is needless to go cold, as you can buy an overcoat at S.B. Seger's for \$2.88 or a full suit for \$5.00.

RICHMOND - The regular meeting of the Town Council and Probate Court was held on Monday, February 4, 1878. Members all present except one, Collins. Accounts allowed and ordered paid to the amount of \$132. The Overseer of the Poor was ordered to notify all persons living together as man and wife in this town who are not married to depart the town or comply with the law within 30 days.

The Richmond Town Council and Probate Court was held on April 1, 1878. Among the business transacted was the appointment of a committee composed of John L. Kenyon, Wanton Lillibridge and H. P. Clarke to survey the highway from the Hopkinton line near the Grist Mill to the corner of the highway near Preston A. Arnold's house with authority to make such changes as they find necessary and proper in the original layout.

RICHMOND - April 4, 1881 - At the regular town meeting of the town council held on the 4th, accounts were allowed and orders granted amounting to \$134.94. A new highway was ordered surveyed from S. P. Clarks village to the Shannock Hill Road. D. R. Kenyon and H. P. Clark were appointed a committee to survey the same. J. H. Babcock, William R. Richmond and D. P. Kenyon were appointed to survey a new highway from the road near C.B. Lillibridge's to Carolina.

SCHOOLS TOO SMALL - The public school in this district in 1881 is too small to accommodate all the children in the district. Fifty scholars are registered, every seat being taken while a private school has been started in the Free Library rooms, which has an attendance of 18.

Following the speaking program, members excitedly scanned the stack of old Advertisers. The Hope Valley Advertiser was published as a weekly in Hope Valley from 1876 until about 1935. Its forerunner, for about a year was the Wood River Advertiser. (Note: this last paragraph refers to the town meeting).

44.

Wyoming, R. I.
December 13, 1969

Dear Members of the Richmond Historical Society:

In looking over and sorting some of my Father's historical materials, I found many notes and cemetery history which I'm sure would be of immense value to the Society.

The notebook contains information about cemeteries in the town of Richmond and some from nearby Exeter. In addition, there is a great deal of information about the Phillips Family Line. Newspaper articles and church records supply information about early marriages and births in the town of Richmond.

The information written in this notebook, especially dates, was carefully copied from grave markers, records, and newspapers. To the best of my knowledge it is accurate.

My sincere best wishes to the Historical Society and the work it is doing with Richmond History.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Stoner

The above letter was written by the daughter of Carl Stoner, who spent so many hours tramping through the woods with his wife and family in search of the known old cemeteries and, what seemed to intrigue him the most, finding old cemeteries long lost under the leaves of time. Of even more value, Carl loved to check up on those names found on the stones to find out the relationship with other Richmondites of the same name. Through the years, Carl had compiled a notebook of information on cemeteries and family history which is probably the most complete and authentic record of local cemeteries to be found in any town in the State of Rhode Island. The researcher can be sure that any data in this notebook is really authentic.

The Richmond Historical Society is thrilled and honored to have the family of Carl Stoner present this invaluable notebook to us for our Archives. We assure the family that we will cherish and protect this wonderful contribution to local history.

On page 45 will be found the first page of the index to the Carl Stone Cemetery Notebook. On page 46 is the data from REYNOLDS CEMETERY NO. 1 as copied from the same Notebook. As room makes itself available in the newssetter, the Cemetery information will be published.

"Be not afraid of life. Believe that life IS worth living, and your belief will help create the fact." - William James.

CEMETERIES IN THE TOWN OF RICHMOND, R. I.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Reynolds | N.S. Tug Hollow Road |
| 2. Reynolds | N.S. Tug Hollow Road |
| 3. Sisson and Gardner | E.S. Gardner Road |
| 4. Hoxie | W.S. Gardner Road |
| 5. Moore | S.S. of trail leading from Gardner to Hillsdale Rd. |
| 6. Beverley Lot | S.S. Mountain Trail |
| 7. Kenyon and Clarke Lot | E.S. New London Turnpike |
| 8. Unknown Lot | W.S. New London Turnpike (100 yds in) 200 yards off trail leading from New London Turnpike to Nooseneck Hill |
| 9. Unknown Lot | Road W.S. of trail |
| 10. Kenyon Lot | E.S. of K.G. Ranch Road |
| 11. Unknown Lot | E.S. of Carolina Nooseneck Road |
| 12. Joshua Clark | W.S. South County Trail |
| 13. Moore Lot | W.S. Garner Road 3/4 mile in |
| 14. James Lot | W.S. of Gardner Road about 3/4 mile South of #13 |
| 15. Sherman Lot | W.S. of Gardner Road about 3/4 mile South of #14 |
| 16. Usquepaugh (Friends) | North Side of Route 138 |
| 17. Clark Lot | North east side of Route 138 |
| 18. Webster and Boss Lot | S. S. Route 138 |
| 19. Lillibridge | W.S. Carolina Nooseneck Hill Road Wyoming |
| 20. Wood River | W. S. Nooseneck Hill Road |
| 21. Hassard Lot | W.S. Nooseneck Hill Road |
| 22. Williams Lot | W. S. Hope Valley Road |
| 23. Brown Lot | N. S. of Woodville Road |
| 24. Larkin Lot | S. S. of Woodville Road |
| 25. Collins Lot | S. S. of Pine Hill Road |
| 26. Larkin Lot | N. S. Pine Hill Road |
| 27. Potter Lot | Carolina |
| 28. White Brook | Trail leading south on Pine Hill of Richmond Town House Road, W.S. of pond. |
| 29. Kenyon | N. S. Shannock Road |
| 30. Bates and Babcock Lot | S. S. Shannock Road in 400 yards. |
| 31. Burlingame Lot | Road leading to Shannock off Shannock Hill Road, going south on E.S. of road. |
| 32. Clark Lot | Road leading from Shannock Hill Road to Kenyon, W.S. of road. |
| 33. Clark Lot | W.S. Community of Kenyon at R.R. Tracks. |
| 34. Kenyon Lot | E. S. Hope Valley Road |
| 35. Brown Lot | W.S. Hope Valley Road |
| 36. Stillman Lot | N. S. of Route 138 |
| 37. Card Lot | Northerly Bank of Sandy Pond |
| 38. Maxon Lot | E. S. of South County Trail |
| 39. Kenyon and James Lot | Essex Trail on Carolina Reservation |
| 40. Lillibridge Lot | |

(To be continued)

(Located west of New London Turnpike in Tug Hollow, near Exeter line.)

Marble Stones:

ALBERT SWEET, born November 2, 1812, died January 31, 1898.

HANNAH TEFT, wife of ALBERT SWEET, born March 25, 1808, died September 2, 1906.

MARY E. EDWARDS, wife of WHITMAN C. REYNOLDS, died December 22, 1929. Age 69 years.

WHITMAN REYNOLDS, born 1853, died November 11, 1936. Age 83.

SUSAN M. CLARKE, died October 24, 1896. Age 70 years, 8 months, 19 days.

DANIEL REYNOLDS, born April 7, 1830, died December 31, 1907.

DANIEL REYNOLDS, born 1786, died September 28, 1870.

ELCY MOORE, wife of DANIEL REYNOLDS, born 1794, died December 26, 1880.

ABIGALE, wife of MOSES CLARK, died March 11, 1850. Age 73 years, 5 months.

JOB REYNOLDS Esq., died February 7, 185 , Age 61 yrs., 2 mo.

JOHN REYNOLDS, died September 7, 1849. Age 69 years, 8 days.

Mrs. MERCY, wife of JOB REYNOLDS, died August 26, 1849. Age 66 years, 9 months, 15 days.

Slate Stones:

STEPHEN REYNOLDS Esq., born December 16, 1749, died January 12, 1826. Age 76 years, 27 days.

ABIGAIL REYNOLDS, wife of STEPHEN REYNOLDS, died July 22, 1843. Age 90 years, 7 months, 11 days.

Miss MARTHA, daughter of STEPHEN REYNOLDS, died June 19, 1840. Age 5 years, 4 months, 8 days.

REBECCA, wife of EPHRAIM LETSON, died September 8, 1872. Age 66 years.

MARY A. CHAMPLIN, wife of WHITMAN G. REYNOLDS, died January 14, 1889. Age 25 years, 1 month, 18 days.

(Continued on page II-46)

(Continued from page 46)

Infant Daughter of WHITMAN AND MARY REYNOLDS, born June 6, 1884.

DORCAS TERRY, daughter of SALLY AND LIMAN MOON, wife of BENJAMIN T. TERRY, died December 31, 1899. Age 60 years, 6 months.

MARVEL TERRY, wife of STEPHEN TERRY, died January 19, 1867. Age 49 years.

SUSAN S., daughter of STEPHEN AND MARVEL TERRY, died December 18, 1859. Age 13 years, 1 month, 1 day.

FRANK H., died March 20, 1856. Age 1 year, 8 months, 20 days.

Infant, born and died December 3, 1837. Children of STEPHEN AND MARVEL TERRY.

Two infant children of DAVID AND DORCAS NORTHUP, born and died June 11, 1854.

EZRA A., son of SETH AND DORCAS TERRY, died July 23, 1854. Age 8 years.

HANNAH M. wife of ALMOND F. REYNOLDS and daughter of JOHN P. AND HULDAH PERKINS, born September 13, 1822, died May 8, 1911.

ALMOND F. REYNOLDS, born June 15, 1832, died May 22, 1899.

A very small metal marker, GROVER C. PERKINS, born August 11, 1892, died March 13, 1893.

LUCY, wife of BENJAMIN TEFT, died September 11, 1811. Age 34 years.

BENJAMIN T. TEFT, died January 19, 1851. Age 77 years.

DESIRE, wife of BENJAMIN T. TEFT, died July 1, 1841. Age 61 years.

Mrs. SUSANNAH, wife of WILLIAM YOUNG, died May 18, 1846. Age 71, 3 months, 1 day.

WILLIAM YOUNG Esq., of Pine Hill, Exeter, R.I. Born in this town, died in Exeter, December 28, 1856. Age 87 years, 10 months, 6 days.

SARAH, wife of JOHN JAMES, died November 26, 1871. Age 79 yrs.

ENOS K. TEFT, died August 20, 1874. Age 48 years.

(Continued on page II-48)

(Continued from page 47)

LYDIA BARBER, born February 3, 1800, died October 13, 1874.

STEPHEN TERRY, died May 3, 1860. Age 46 years.

FRANCES, wife of GREEN G. REYNOLDS, died May 9, 1857. Age 51 yrs

ABBY, daughter of DANIEL AND ELIZABETH REYNOLDS, died
December 31, 1863. Age 43 years.

D. C. T.

DORCAS CROWELL, wife of SETH W. TERRY, died August 6, 1889.
Age 70 years.

SETH W. TERRY, died March 21, 1894. Age 78 years.

MARY E., daughter of DAVID AND DORCAS NORTHUP, died
February 25, 1860. Age 10 months, 8 days.

SUSAN R., daughter of STEPHEN AND MERCY TERRY, died
September 18, 1865, Age 1 year, 7 months, 7 days.

ESTHER, daughter of BENJAMIN AND DESIRE TEFT, died
September 12, 1849. Age 21 years, 6 months, 7 days.

AMEY ANN, wife of WILLIAM SLOAN, died July 18, 1869.
Age 36 years.

Slate Stone.

NATHANIEL, son of JOB AND JOANNA REYNOLDS, born July 14, 1815,
died December 6, 1815.

Vol. II. No. 10 L.R. Tootell, Wyoming, R.I. 02898

MARCH 1970

NEXT RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOWN MEETING

The twenty-second Town Meeting of the Richmond Historical Society will be held Tuesday evening, March 10th, at 8 P.M. in the Richmond Town Hall. PAUL DEGANNETT, who lives on the site of the Stage Coach stop on Wilbur Hill Road, once a main route between Connecticut and Kingston, R.I. over which may have travelled George Washington in 1781, will speak to us about RAMBLING AROUND RICHMOND. Non-members are always welcome at these meetings.

COLLATION COMMITTEE

The Collation Committee for the next town meeting will be: Mr. & Mrs. Henry Boucher, Co-Chairmen; and Mr. & Mrs. Russell Kenyon.

See Volume I-page 11 for instructions. Also members should check Volume II, page 23 to remind them as to when they are to be on the Refreshment Committee.

NEXT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

The next Executive Council meeting of the Richmond Historical Society will be held at the home of Lucy Rawlings Tootell on Wednesday evening, March 25th at 8 P.M.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Roy Pearson, Usquepaugh Road, West Kingston, R.I.

Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. King, Senior, 12 Cleveland St., Wakefield, R.I.

FIELD TRIP TO WILLIAMSBURG - SOME VITAL STATISTICS

Sponsored by: Richmond Historical Society

Escorted by: Lucy Rawlings Tootell

When: Thursday through Sunday (August 6, 7, 8, 9, 1970)

How Long: Four Days

How: Cherted Bus

How Many: Forty-one people

Reservations: First come - first served. Call Lucy R. Tootell (539-7581)

Approximate cost of trip:- more details later - Save Your Pennies

Bus transportation	(per person)	30.00
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Sleeping accommodations:

Double	3 nights @ \$6.00	18.00
Four	3 nights @ 4.00	12.00

Food: (Responsibility of each individual)

The cost of food on the trip should actually be only the amount which you would spend over what you would spend when you are at home.

Admission fees: (More details later)

Will depend on where we plan to visit.

HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT VALENTINE'S DAY
By Helen Edmonds Brunskill

II-50

The most curious fact about the day is that its patron, St. Valentine, had actually nothing to do with the customs connected with the fourteenth of February. Some of these customs, indeed, were observed in ancient Rome long before the introduction of Christianity, when there were neither saints nor saints' days. In those far-off days wolves were especially abundant and dangerous, and a destroyer of wolves was held in honor; and so it came about that the old Romans held a celebration in the month of February called the Lupercalia, in honor of Lupercus, "the wolf destroyer." At this festival it was customary, among other things, for the young people to draw lots for partners for the year. Hundreds of years later the same custom arose in England and France and then it was called St. Valentine's Day.

What young girl would think of doing today what was done in the year 1756 by a girl who writes: "Last Friday was Valentine's Day and the night before I got five bayleaves and pinned four of them to the four corners of my pillow and the fifth to the middle; and then, if I dreamed of my sweetheart, Betty said we should be married before the year was out. But to make it more sure, I boiled an egg hard, and took out the yolk and filled it with salt; and when I went to bed, ate it shell and all without drinking or speaking after it."

Another queer custom was for the young people to get up before sunrise and go out to try to snare an owl and two sparrows. Just why they chose these particular birds we do not know, but if they succeeded it was accounted a good omen. When they returned home, their neighbors would make them presents. They were lucky people all the rest of the year. In some places, the suitor would write his valentine, and, fastening it to an apple or orange, would steal quietly up to the home of his sweetheart and toss it through the open door or window. Even though she might not welcome the note, she would be hardhearted indeed not to accept the fruit.

In 1917 J. Walder McSpadden wrote the following: "The practice of sending ugly valentines is a much later one for which there is no excuse. The day is intended only as an occasion of pleasant messages. The unpleasant ones were far better burned. If we cannot say a kind word, why say anything at all? The over-colored cartoon valentines had their greatest popularity in America thirty or forty years ago. Now we seem to be outgrowing them."

In 1965 Elizabeth H. Sechrist tell us, "Valentine boxes are still popular with American children for valentines are distributed at the close of school while they send others by mail. Among grownups, boxes of candy decorated with big red hearts are more popular and parties and dances are the custom on St Valentine's Day. But, for the most part, February 14 has lost much of the romantic character it had in the olden days."