

ORGANIZATION MEETING

In order to start a Richmond Historical Society, a small group of interested residents are being invited to attend an organization meeting to be held at the home of Lucy Rawlings Tootell, Meadowbrook Road, Wyoming, R.I., 02898 (Tel. 539-7581) on Tuesday evening, April 2, 1968 at 8 P.M.

NEED FOR A HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Local History is everybody's history and a Historical Society makes the public more aware and more appreciative of its local Heritage. Also, no history of any country is complete until the smallest details have been recorded for posterity.

INQUIRY

Having been Archivist of the Little Rest Archives in Kingston, R.I. since 1955, I know how many people are anxious to find out answers to questions about history in the town of Richmond. They need a reliable interested group to write to. One recent inquiry - Does anyone have a picture of the Old Dawley Tavern in Wyoming before part of it was removed?

PRESERVATION OF OLD BUILDINGS

Losing old buildings is almost like losing old friends and Richmond is fast losing both. Memories of people and buildings can be retained by pictures and careful recording and filing of their background history. I felt rather sad to see the old Card House in Wyoming being torn down. I tried to obtain the stone in the chimney with the date 1780 inscribed on it but was unsuccessful. A Historical Society might have had more influence.

This building was a typical example of a New England salt box style of architecture and part of Richmond's historical past. Properly restored, it could have been a distinctive addition to any residential area. Here was a house which would have never gone "out of style."

What could a Historical Society do? Many times, a Society can interest historically minded persons in purchasing the property or moving the house to another location. The Providence Preservation Society is a good example of what can be accomplished by a group of people.

FAMILY HISTORY

People throughout the United States are continually writing to inquire about their ancestors. It would seem that every immigrant to America either settled in Rhode Island or passed through Rhode Island on his trek westward. For this reason, it is important that Family History be filed in some central spot and brought up to date for posterity. Many members of the D.I.R. qualified because of some Rhode Island boy who carried water to the soldiers during the Revolution!

FIELD TRIPS

Wouldn't it be fun for the members of a Historical Society to take some informal field trips to Richmond's interesting sites and old cemeteries and old turnpikes!

2.

CEMETERIES

What to do about old Family Cemeteries? Many cemeteries contain the last of their direct line and have "gone to seed" for lack of funds to keep them in decent condition. These cemeteries lend charm to our Rhode Island landscape - are fun to visit - and offer important information on births, marriages, and deaths of the occupants. Nearly everyone agrees that they should be taken care of but who should do it? Here is a vital and important question for a Historical Society to consider!

MAPS

Almost nothing is as important and informative as a good authentic map. A Society could record all available maps of Richmond and gather material for new publications. Washington County needs a map showing the location of the original land purchases from the Indians.

ANECDOTE

AN INCIDENT OF THE REVOLUTION - John Fordice of Richmond, R.I., married Dec. 6, 1764, Elizabeth Stanton. It is said that John Fordice, son of a Scotch Emigrant, had come from Nova Scotia to Rhode Island and there married Elizabeth Stanton, and lived in Exeter, R.I., or thereabouts.

John went out of doors one evening to get some wood; saw some persons lurking about and being Tory, feared harm or impressment into the service of the patriots, he quietly departed for Nova Scotia without informing even his family. Elizabeth, his wife, after a long absence on the part of her husband and believing him dead, married again and had two children. Finally John came back, picked up an armful of wood, and walked into the house (must have been something of a wag). Finally, by agreement between all parties, Elizabeth went back to her first husband. They, about 1800, settled at Fernham, Province of Quebec.

Written by B.I. Stanton
(Reference: James Arnold, The Narragansett Register, Vol. 7, No. 1, January 1889.
Page 24.)

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

HISTORY

Supposedly Usquepaugh was the home of the invention and manufacture of the Common Pin by William Lockwood, one of the founders of Sigma Chi fraternity. Mr. Lockwood originated the head on the pin so that it would not slip through the material.

Where did Mr. Lockwood live in Usquepaugh and where did he manufacture this pin? More information on this is desired.

IMPORTANT

Buy a loose leaf notebook and make this the first page of your RICHMOND HISTORY news sheet collection!

FIELD TRIP

If it does not rain on Sunday afternoon April 21st, at 2 P.M., the newly organized Richmond Historical Society will conduct a Field Trip under the able leadership of Messers Daniel James, J. Carl Stoner, and Earl Smith. The Public is invited to meet at the Richmond Town Hall dressed in comfortable clothes and walking shoes. The circle tour will include Old Bailey Hill Cemetery, site of the Bailey Homestead, and the old Kenyon Mill in Hillsdale. Bring your camera and hear about Richmond's historical heritage from well informed local historians.

LAST ORGANIZATION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The first organization meeting of the newly formed Richmond Historical Society was held at the home of Lucy Rawlings Tootell on Tuesday April 2, 1968. Members present were: Daniel James, Henry Boucher, Mr. & Mrs. James Niles, Mr. & Mrs. Earl Smith, Mrs. Richard Brown, Mrs. Richard Miller, J. Carl Stoner, and Lucy R. Tootell. Highlights of the meeting were as follows:

1. Name of organization shall be RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
2. Aim: Richmond History
3. Membership open to all interested persons.
4. Organization committee will meet every first Tuesday of the Month.
5. Plan at least one monthly field trip.
6. Cooperate with the Rhode Island Heritage Month Committee.
7. Develop maps of Richmond.
8. Develop future historical publications on Richmond history.
9. Keep Society informal in character - concentrate on history.

There was a general discussion but no conclusions as to -

1. Where to file documents and manuscripts in a safe fireproof place.
2. Where to exhibit historical items in a safe place.
3. Where to hold large meetings of the Society.

DANIEL JAMES

The Society is most fortunate in having Mr. Daniel James of Wyoming one of the members of the organization committee. It will be men such as he who possess the vast knowledge of Richmond's past heritage which will give our organization the touch of local color and authenticity which makes history come alive to the public and makes them more aware of the fact that the past is not really a "dead issue."

NEXT ORGANIZATION MEETING

The next organization meeting of the Richmond Historical Society will be held at the home of Lucy Rawlings Tootell on Tuesday evening, May 7th, at 8 P.M.

MAY IS RHODE ISLAND HERITAGE MONTH

The Rhode Island Heritage Month Brochures should soon be ready. Watch for these at your Library or Historical Museums or write directly to the Rhode Island Development Council, Roger Williams Building, Providence, R.I.

BAILEY HILL ROAD

The road which extends northerly from the Richmond Town Hall intersection over Bailey Hill to Buttonwood Corner has usually been referred to as the BAILEY HILL ROAD in honor of the town's first moderator, RICHARD BAILEY. The 1968 Rhode Island Map lists this same road as the CAROLINA-NOOSENECK ROAD. Not being a through thoroughfare, the present name has no special significance whereas BAILEY HILL ROAD does have historical and traditional value. I vote for BAILEY HILL ROAD!

HISTORY

In 1747 our town was named Richmond supposedly in honor of Edward Richmond, attorney general of the Colony (1677-80). Mr. Richmond took an active part in the settlement of Westerly at a time when Richmond was still within the Westerly area.

FAMILY HISTORY - RICHARD BAILEY

1747 (Aug. 28) - Captain Richard Bailey was chosen moderator of the new town of Richmond.

Also voted: that Captain Richard Bailey, John Webster, Joseph Hoxie, James Adams, Willism Potter, and Joseph Clarke be chosen as the six Town Councilmen.

1747 (Oct.) - Captain Richard Bailey and John Webster were chosen deputies to the general assembly held in Kings County. At this period, the Colony House was in Tower Hill on the site of the present Lawn Mower Company, Tower Hill Road.

1765 (Oct. to May 1766) - Richard Bailey acted as Speaker of the House of Deputies. By this time the seat of government of Kings County had been moved from Tower Hill to Little Rest (now Kingston) and the site of the Colony House was the foundation of the present Church House now part of the Kingston Congregational Church complex in Kingston, R.I.

1776 (June 4) - Richard Bailey, Jr. (son of Richard Bailey), Joseph Woodmancy, Jonathan Maxson, John Clarke, Samuel Clarke, Samuel Stanton, William Kenyon, Thomas Lillibridge, Joseph Woodmensee, Jr., and Nicholas Mosher agreed to give one day each toward making the town's lead and powder into certouches.

During the Revolutionary War, Richard Bailey, Jr. acted as Captain of the Richmond First Company.

HISTORIC LANDMARK FOR SALE

Many people remember the COOKIE JAR near Wyoming and the colonial house close by. It is now for sale. In 1747 the land was purchased by Benjamin Perry and he built a family home now a part of the present building. The first one-horse wagon introduced into Richmond was said to have been imported from Connecticut by his grandson George Perry. George's grandson, Halsey P. Clarke, was Town Clerk of Richmond for many years. The last member of the family to own the house was Halsey C. Kenyon. It had remained in the Perry family for over 200 years. Let us hope some historically minded family will want to restore and preserve this ancient landmark of Richmond's past.

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

FIRST RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOWN MEETING

The first large meeting of the Richmond Historical Society will be held in the Council Chambers of the Richmond Town Hall, Tuesday evening, May 21st., at 8 P.M. The program will be about WYOMING. Anyone having maps, pictures, clippings, documents, family histories, or objects of interest are invited to bring them. The public is invited. Chairman of the program will be the Wyoming School District Council representative, Mr. Henry A. Boucher, Post Master of the Wyoming Post Office.

LAST EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

An Executive Council meeting was held at the home of Lucy Rawlings Tootell on Tuesday May 7, 1968. Members present were: Mrs. Tootell, Earl Smith, Eleanor Smith, Pat Millar, Billie Stetson, Daniel James, Carl Stoner, Martha Stoner, James Niles, Deronda Niles, Henry Boucher, and Charles Edmonds. Highlights of the meeting were as follows:

1. Election of Officers:

President	Lucy Rawlings Tootell
Vice-President	J. Carl Stoner
Secretary	Pat Miller (Mrs. Richard)
Treasurer	Charles J. Edmonds
Historian	Eleanor Smith (Mrs. Earl)

2. The Executive Council shall be made up of the Officers plus a representative of each of the Richmond School Districts as listed on the 1870 map. (Districts are listed elsewhere)

3. The following meeting times were agreed upon:

Executive Council	- first Tuesday of each Month.
Town Meetings	- Third Tuesday of each Month.
Field Trips	- At least one each Month
Annual Meeting	- June
Fiscal Year	- June 1 to May 31

4. Dues: \$3.00 per year includes one year's subscription to the Richmond History News Sheet and family membership - i.e. all living in one household - in the Richmond Historical Society.

5. Honorary President. - Daniel James

Each year some outstanding member of the Richmond Historical Society, over the age of 65, will be elected Honorary President which will automatically include him or her in the Richmond Historical Hall of Fame. Also will be selected some outstanding citizen of Richmond now deceased. The honorary President for this coming year will be Mr. Daniel James of Wyoming, R.I.

6. LETTER FROM THE RICHMOND TOWN COUNCIL - MAY 10, 1968

" . . . At a special meeting of the Richmond Town Council held on May 2, 1968, it was unanimously voted to grant the following privileges to the Richmond Historical Society:

1. The use of the Richmond Council Chambers for any Society meeting, provided this does not conflict with a scheduled meeting of any of the Town's governing or advisory bodies.

2. The use of the Richmond Council Chambers to exhibit items of historical interest. Such exhibits on display should, however, be limited to a size that would not be overly cumbersome.

3. The use of the Town's basement vault so long as, in the opinion of the Town Clerk, there is excess space available.

All the above are granted with the expressed reservations that the Town shall not be liable for fire or theft loss, and that such privileges are granted only so long as the Council feels that it is in the best interest of the Town of Richmond. . "

The above letter means that through the graciousness of the Richmond Town Council, the Historical Society will have a place to meet, store valuable items of historical interest, and put on temporary exhibits. The Society is most grateful to the Council and will try to make the Council proud of the fact that they have extended this courtesy to the Society by making the public more aware of its Richmond heritage.

GIFTS TO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Knowing that they will be well taken care of and preserved for posterity, gifts are already being presented to the Society. The following have been accessioned:

68.1.1 Chimney stone from the old Reynolds Card House in Wyoming, inscribed with the date 1780. This is a gift from Mr. Nappi who tore down the building to erect a new gas station. The Society thanks Joseph R. Gardiner for acquainting Mr. Nappi with the fact that the Society would be interested in acquiring this stone.

68.2.1 1890 Map of Richmond

68.2.2 Copy of 1870 Richmond School District Map.

Gifts of Mr. Frank Dawley, Route 138, Usquepaugh, R. I.

Each item has to have an accession number for future reference - 68 stands for the year acquired - 1 stands for first collection received - second 1 stands for first item of collection.

Also these numbers are recorded in a notebook. A large index donor card is typed giving more detailed description of the gift, and a smaller subject index card is typed for easy reference i.e. MAPS * SCHOOLS * HISTORIC HOUSE * ETC.

If any member is interested in helping to keep these records, contact Mrs. Tootell.

FIRST FIELD TRIP

7.

On Sunday April 21, 1968, twenty-five persons were conducted on a most interesting field trip to some very old and ancient cemeteries in the town of Richmond by three very efficient guides, J. Carl Stoner, Daniel James, and Earl Smith. The Tour route was as follows:

Town Hall north via Bailey Hill Road to Buttonwood Corner: Visited the Town Pound which is very high so that, according to Eleanor Smith, the sheep could not jump over. I thought it was the cow - not the sheep - who jumped over the moon! We then stopped half way up Bailey Hill and stumbled through the woods to the old Bailey Hill Cemetery - there must be at least fifty head stones there. There are obviously inscriptions, though brief, on these stones but they are moss covered and difficult to read. It would be nice to obtain permission to clear up this cemetery.

Drove from Buttonwood Corner west on Buttonwood Road, now listed as Skunk Hill for some reason! There we stopped and hiked through bush and bremble to the Ezekiel Tefft Cemetery now almost lost to view.

Drove north on the K.G. Ranch Road and visited Kenyon cemetery which Daniel James cleared up and which still looks quite respectable. Then on east on the Baker Pines Road where we entered State owned forest to visit the Baker Cemetery. Enroute we converged upon a pair of human love birds in a car who were mightily surprised to see all these people appearing in the wilds of Richmond - they won't soon forget that Sunday in the Park! Reaching the cemetery a very sad sight met our eyes! The State had been cutting and trimming the trees and had piled the wood and branches right on the middle of the cemetery on top of the inscribed stones, of course, breaking many or knocking them over. To me this was rather ironic - we criticize juvenile delinquents for desecrating cemeteries and yet we, as Tax Payers, are furnishing the money to pay state employees to wreck these old cemeteries through thoughtless carelessness. Is not the result the same! Are we a Nation becoming so heartless we delight in stepping on those who cannot fight back? Should not the desecration of a cemetery be as serious as the desecration of a church!

Continuing north on the old New London Turnpike, we stopped to see the site of the old Tefft School where Earl Smith tells us a man was once found frozen to death. Near by was the Judge Simeon Clarke cemetery where are to be found some of the most beautiful slate stones in the town, in near perfect preservation.

Near Exeter, on the old New London Turnpike, is TUG HOLLOW, where we visited two Reynolds Cemeteries. Iron rods connected granite fence posts to enclose one of these cemeteries. It would be interesting to find out if these iron rods were made from the Bog Iron of Brand's Iron Works (now Wyoming).

Continuing easterly, we visited the spacious Moore Cemetery. John Moore was one of the early Narragansett Planters. Here may be seen a beautiful grove of tall, stately Hemlock Trees set out by the Moore family. The trees were imported. Standing there, one felt as though it was a mammoth outdoor Cathedral. It would indeed be a most restful place to commune with God.

By this time it was time for supper so the Hillsdale area had to be postponed for another time.

This was a delightful adventure in Richmond's past.

In spite of inclement weather, five carloads of people were courageous enough to brave the elements and take a most enlightening and fascinating tour of the Hillsdale area guided by Mr. Earl Smith who lives on the Hillsdale Road.

Most people are unaware of the fact that once Hillsdale was quite a mill village. Earl Smith took us into the woods to the damsite of the first grist mill at Hillsdale, said to have been built by Jonathan Potter. Here was a beautiful wooded glade abounding in Jack-in-the-pulpits, wild lily of the valley, Lady's slippers, and arbutus, nestled close to a murmuring stream too large for a brook but not quite grand enough to deserve the title of Beaver River - rather, a lovely dancing, skipping, gurgling stream - no wonder there are foundations of so many former homes along this nature's highway - foundations easily found because of the tiger lilies, cultivated lily of the valley and lilac bushes. There was even the stone remains of a dance hall to be seen.

Jonathan Potter sold his mill to George James, Dec. 10, 1827. William Jenks purchased it of George James, and March 20, 1828, he deeded three-sixteenths to Ebenezer Carpenter. They together, erected a factory and carded wool for customers. The remains of this mill can still be seen and part of the TURBINE underwater wheel so common in 1827 along strams which could be dammed.

Between 1830 and 1836, Whitman Kenyon and Wenton and Edward Lilligrige engaged just below this old mill in the manufacture of coarse mixed cloth sold to the South to clothe their slaves. The remains of this building can be easily seen as it borders the main road.

Below this site there is evidence of another mill. Supposedly Richard Bailey had a mill there. Any information about this mill would be appreciated.

South of the mills, we visited the Punch Bowl School site and saw the deep indentation in the ground known as the PUNCH BOWL near the entrance to the road leading to the RICHARD BAILEY HOMESTEAD. It is impossible to follow the old road any great distance because of the undergrowth. Part of the huge chimney is still standing and there appears to have been a series of cellars under the once large mansion. Lilac bushes are still blooming. Does anyone have a picture of this house?

Earl Smith did a grand job of guiding us through this Hillsdale area. Everyone had a wonderful time. It was well worth taking a chance with Old Man Weather!

We have had two most educational and adventuresome field trips and all who can walk, should not miss the opportunity of seeing Richmond with guides well versed in the town's historical lore.

FAMILY HISTORY

The above mentioned WHITMAN KENYON (of Deacon David, Capt. Thomas, David, John, James) married Abby Lillibrige, sister of Wenton & Edward, and was great grandfather of Virginia Kenyon Cottrell, Lecturer of the Richmond Grange No. 6, through Alfred Whitman, Dr. Edward, and her father Amos H. Kenyon. Read AMERICAN KENYONS, GENEALOGY OF THE AMERICAN KENYON OF RHODE ISLAND, written by Capt. Howard N. Kenyon. (Rutland, Vermont: The Tuttle Co., 1935)

In 1800 the first free School law was enacted in Rhode Island. "That each and every town in the State shall annually cause to be established and kept at the expense of such towns one or more free schools for the instruction of all the white inhabitants of said town, between the ages of six and twenty years in reading, writing, and common arithmetic, who may stand in need of such instruction and apply therefor.

And be it further enacted, that it shall be the duty of the town council of every town to divide said town into so many school districts as they shall judge necessary and convenient.

The law met with great opposition, and at the February session of 1803 was repealed . . . Providence, however, carried the system into effect . . . and the different towns took advantage of the enactment passed in 1800, and immediately began erecting school houses. In the year 1828 most of the towns throughout the state had three or more school houses, most of which had been built by subscription . . . RICHMOND two . . ." (Read HISTORY OF WASHINGTON & KENT COUNTIES, p.93.)

By 1870 the Richmond Switch Subscribers' Business Directory (a copy is now owned by the Richmond Historical Society) shows the RICHMOND SCHOOL DISTRICTS as follows:

1. PINE GROVE (includes Woodville)
2. CAROLINA
3. SHANNOCK
4. USQUEPAUGH
5. CENTER (Quarrelsome Corners)
6. SQUIRRELVILLE (Kenyon Hill)
7. WYOMING
8. TEFPTS HILL
9. BELL
10. WASHINGTON (Between BELL & HILLSDALE)
11. PLAINVILLE (ALTON & WOOD RIVER JUNCTION)
12. HILLSDALE
13. ARCADIA
14. BOSS (Between USQUEPAUGH & KENYON)
15. KENYON

NOTE: Lower Hope Valley must have been included with the Hopkinton School District.

EARLY SCHOOLS

"The first school house erected in this town was about the year 1806, in District No. 7, on the highway near the burying ground a little west of H.P. Clarke's. This house was built by Amos Lillibridge, George Perry, David Kenyon and Sprague Kenyon. In this house schools of more or less note were kept until about 1825, when it was burned down. The same year in District No. 8 a building partly of stone was erected by Caleb Barber near his house. It was called Barber's Academy. In this building schools were kept for several years.

A few years after these houses were built, Judge James built a house near where Silas James lately lived, in District No. 8. This house was afterward moved up on Tefft's Hillland used for a school house for a number of years, until 1838, when the new district school house was erected.

About 1818 two houses were erected; one, called Clarke's school house, near Stanton's Corners, in District No. 15, built by Judge Samuel Clarke; the other, called Kenyon school house, erected near the residence of the Reverend Gilbert Tillinghast, in District No. 13. This house was built by the Kenyons, five brothers, namely, Samuel, John, Silas, Benedict and Cory. In these houses schools were kept for a number of years.

In 1826 a school house was erected in District No. 9. This house was called the Bell school house, and was built by Jesse Reynolds, Robert Reynolds, Wells Reynolds, Reynolds Hoxsie, Clark Sisson, Job Hoxsie, Rouse Hoxsie, Varnum Hoxsie and others. It was considered at the time a very nice house, and readily shows their enterprise and interest in the cause of education. A few years after the passage of the free school act (1828) this house was received as a district school house. It has since been repaired and furnished with new seats, and is now far from being the poorest school house in town." (Read HIST. WASHINGTON & KENT COUNTIES, p. 714.) (This book was published in 1889)

BE A CHARTER MEMBER
JOIN
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RICHMOND HISTORY
Lucy Rawlings Tootell
Wyoming, R.I. 02898

\$3.00
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Treasurer
CHARLES J. EDMONDS
Carolina, R.I.