



Wyoming, Rhode Island 02898

Patricia A. Millar, President
Hillsdale Road, Box 694
West Kingston, R. I. 02802

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FALL MEETING

Sunday, October 30, 1983 2:00 P. M. Bell School Museum

You will note that we are deviating a little from our usual schedule: the fourth Sunday of alternating months. Several of our Board members were unable to attend on that date, so we are meeting on the fifth Sunday.

Mr. Allen J. Gates, new Executive Director for the Center for the Arts, Westerly, is currently meeting with local organizations to discuss his plans for the Center. He will be with us on Sunday. His slide presentation should be an exciting overview of this organization which is doing so much to bring cultural programs and activities to our area. This could be an excellent opportunity to share some cultural and historical program plans.

Because there was some confusion about the lack of a Nominating Committee at our Annual Meeting, so elections were postponed until this October meeting. Inasmuch as a Nominating Committee is not necessary for an election, the ELECTION OF OFFICERS WILL BE HELD based on nominations from the floor. As we stated in June, the future of the Society depends upon your participation, either as an officer or in the election of its leadership. Please make an effort to be present and be heard. Bring a friend and help the Society grow. There will be a brief installation ceremony.

Collation will be provided by the Executive Board, during which time we will share our program plans for the year, with input from the new officers.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!!

Congratulations to Patty Millar for being selected to serve on Governor Garrahy's Committee of '86, the purpose of which is to help coordinate and plan the various activities for the celebration of Rhode Island's 350th birthday. The swearing-in ceremony was held at the State House on September 18, 1983. As a member of this Committee, Patty will serve as a liason between the Town of Richmond and the State, be an active participant on one or more sub-committees, and coordinate Town participation in celebration activities.

The various sub-committees include: Public Relations, Festival, Military, Ethnic/Cultural, Religious, Education, Arts and Humanities, Rhode Island-Tomorrow, Historical Documents, Themes, Local Communities, Publications, Tourism, Historians, Awards/Achievements, Business/Labor, and Commemorative Items. IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN BEING A PART OF THIS CELEBRATION BY HELPING WITH ONE OF THESE SUB-COMMITTEES, please contact Patty. Many of you will no doubt be hearing from her in the near future!

BELL SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

During the month of August the Bell School Museum and Archives was open to the public from 1:00 to 4:00 P. M. on Wednesdays. Eleanor Smith, Archivist, was on hand to greet people and help them with research. The Executive Board generally agreed that this was a good idea--we want our materials to be available to more people. However, it is an imposition to expect one person to bear the burdon of hospitality. If several people would take turns at the School, we could be more available; the more people, the fewer times each has to be on hand.

It is a great opportunity for reading, research, and writing as well. We have a great deal of information in the archives and are adding to them regularly.

For those of you who may have a concern about the winter months, the Executive Board charged the Treasurer with the task of investigating prices of and purchasing accordingly a space heater. Until the chimney is replaced and the stove re-installed, the heater should be an economical, safe provider of ample heat.

Please call Patty or Eleanor with the dates that you would like to be at the school.

You will all be excited to learn that the Bell School has been kind to the archives. Damp things have been drying out nicely over the year and the growth of mold and mildew seems to have be stopped. Temperature fluctuations will be a problem, of course, but far less deleterious than the dampness of the vault.

REQUESTS

We frequently receive requests from people whose ancestors lived in Richmond. The archivist and Executive Board members do some research, but they do not have access to all of the information. Perhaps some of you have information which would be helpful; therefore the requests are being reproduced all or in part in this Newsletter.

The first request comes from a Dennis Kenaga who writes that he visited Richmond in June to do research on his ancestor Richard Bailey. "I walked along Bailey Hill Trail and located the site of Richard Bailey's house according to the map (DRIFTWAYS). Who is "S. B. Bailey and his descendants" mentioned on top of page 67? I am interested in any information on the family and ancestry of Richard Bailey, and also of John Webster of Hillsdale and also of Thomas Clarke, early surveyor of Richmond (Arcadia, he married Bridget Barber)." He included a well started genealogical record with his letter and referred to conversations he had with several of our town historians when he was here. The record is available for viewing by anyone who thinks they may have some pieces for his puzzle and vice-versa.

Marjorie L. Barrows of Sterling, New York, writes, "In the early 1790s one of my ancestors, William Rogers, sold all his land (which had belonged to his father, Stephen Rogers) in Richmond, R. I. and went to Wayne Co., N. Y. The records show that he excepted "the burying ground." I would like to look up this burying ground as I feel William's first wife, Ruth, and his father, Stephen, were probably buried there. Do you know where this plot is and is it accessible? And, in addition do you by any chance know whether there are any existing grave stones?"

From Canada (J. Leonard Praught) comes this request: "As a hobby I have been researching acesral family trees. One of my wife's ancestors in Nova Scotia was Esther Harvie, daughter of Alice Wilcox. Alice Wilcox's father was Benjamin Wilcox who came to Nova Scotia from Rhode Island about 1760-61 with a large young family. In trying to discover more about Benjamin Wilcox I found reference to the estate of his brother Stephen Wilcox in Richmond, R. I., so I assume since there had Wilcox's in that area for some time, Benjamin must have been from the Richmond area. ----- Stephen's Will refers to a wife Mary and brothers Benjamin, William, Smiton, and Thomas. There is no reference to children so I assume there were none that survived. ---- I would like to find out who Benjamin's wife was, birth records of his children, and anything that goes further back. ---- Any comments you care to make would be much appreciated."

We also received other phone requests about Rathbuns and Clarkes. If you have information to share, please call Eleanor or Patty.

MEMBERSHIP

Time flies when you're having fun and you may have been having such a good time this summer that the months since DUES WERE DUE may have gone by without your realizing it. Following is a list of the paid up members for 1983-84. If you have paid and your name is not on the list, or if you wish to get your membership up-to-date, contact Peggy Whitt, Box 691, Hillsdale Road, West Aingston, 02892.

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. Ray Bader | Mr. & Mrs. Mason Bennis & Joyce |
| Mr. & Mrs. Earl Brunskill | Mr. & Mrs. Harry Chatalian |
| Mr. & Mrs. Roger DeSarro, Roger II, Todd | |
| Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hawkins | Mrs. Miriam Joslin |
| Mrs. Jeanne Lees | Mr. & Mrs. Lyle Lillibridge |
| Mrs. Marjorie Lillibridge | Mr. & Mrs. Richard Millar |
| Mr. & Mrs. Roland Morgan | Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Nitz |
| Mr. & Mrs. Rob Roy Rawlings | Mr. & Mrs. Roy Richmond |
| Mrs. Earl Smith | Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Stedman |
| Mr. & Mrs. William Stetson | Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Whitt |
| Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Whitt | Mr. & Mrs. Frank Williams |

Included is another Membership Form for your convenience. If you don't need it, please share it with a friend!

INTO THE FUTURE

December program (tour) into Christmas past at Smith's Castle 12/4/83
 February remembering love with the Romance of the Valentine 2/26/84
 April digging into the past with Archeology in Richmond 4/22/84
 June (annual meeting) Return of the Outhouse by popular request! 6/24/84

ARCHIVES

Small Webster's Dictionary, personal size, gift of Edith Lamb
 Baby clothes, early 1900s, gift of Kleber Avery family
 Bell from Carolina Schoolhouse, used by Ida Clarke, gift of Harold S.K.
~~Harold Avery~~ (we'd like a glass domed stand for this)
 Marriage cup, gift from Perry family

These gifts are welcome additions to our archives and we sincerely thank the donors for trusting us to protect and share their family treasures replete with the history that accompanies them.

Valentine Trivia

A survey made in Park Row, New York City, the nation's wholesale valentine center, showed that sales for 1932 amounted to from five TO SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS.

News of the Archives

Eleanor has been slowly but surely working on the inventory, warm days permitting, and is increasingly impressed with the value of our collections.

One major find was the Cemetery Book in which Carl Stoner had recorded historic (marked and unmarked) cemeteries in Richmond. For some reason the book had not been properly listed in the Archives Book and its whereabouts was unknown. Carl had documented many cemeteries which are no longer evident because of construction. The book is invaluable and is an excellent research tool. Because of this latter quality, the book is being placed in the Town Hall so that it can readily be accessed by researchers. The location will be appropriately documented.

Eleanor says that "Our most recent acquisition is a book of some 700 pages entitled THE FARMER'S NEW GUIDE by D. B. Shepp, published in 1894. It was graciously donated by Ray and Ida Bader."

The author tells us who to manage everything on the farm, including the household.

Quote:

"Let the farmer provide a large pleasant kitchen and interest himself in its conveniences for work--being as enthusiastic in furnishing labor-saving machines for this department of farming as for his outside field--and he will find that he makes an investment that pays an hundred fold. Let the farmer's wife make the kitchen a bright and sweet-aired realm, and be proved to its intelligent and efficient queen. Let her beautify her work as much as possible, and lift it above the dull, discouraging slough of drudgery. With conveniences for work, and a cheerful, comfortable place to work in, the women are few who will not make their homes 'the dearest spot on earth' to all who dwell within them."

(I say this is chauvenistic propoganda aimed at making women think they are happily duty-bound to the home, and is a reaction to already smouldering rebellion from the distaff side! ----Ed.!)

This book may be seen and studied at Bell School any Wednesday afternoon from 1:00 to 4:00 P. M., weather permitting. Appointments may be made with Eleanor Smith by phoning 539-7683.

A LOOK AHEAD

Our May Heritage Month exhibit will feature the village of Kenyon. Please be looking for photos and artifacts for this display.

THE NATURE OF RICHMOND

by Eleanor H. Smith

Winter has reached the turning point. When the sunlight grows brighter, the call of the titmice sounds more assured and the chick-a-dee suddenly calls sweetly "fee-bee," his sun-warmed mid-winter phrase.

In spite of our battles with cold, snow and ice, the lengthening days make our spirits a little lighter.. For those who do not like snow, there is a benefit, after all. It reflects sunlight into homes and buildings, brightening the corners, conserving light and heat energy---and revealing cobwebs!

There is a certain pleasure in digging paths out of relatively light snowfalls. Rythmic strokes with a light-weight sturdy shovel curves a picturesque dark floor between white walls. After a few minutes, one rests, perhaps with hands clasped over shovel handle with chin resting on hands. In these moments, one discovers the actual shades of greenness in the evergreens, the various shades of gray in deciduous trees and ornamental shrubs. Also discovered are the weeds that never got pulled out of the flower garden!

Twenty minutes to half an hour of this easy style of snow removal returns one to the house, pleasantly exhilarated by exercise and fresh air.

A streak of red flashes across the window:--a cardinal in his feather coat daily becoming brighter with the climbing sun.

A PROFILE
of
Marion D. Hawkins
(Conclusion)

Do you all remember that, in the June issue of this Newsletter we left Marion and her family in the after-math of the 1938 Hurricane? To refresh your memory, the last sentence is quoted: "Lowell had not come home from school so Paul walked to Richmond School and found the children safely in the basement, though some buses had started out before the wind got so bad."

To continue---

Paul and Lowell walked home--a little over a mile. Some of the upstairs windows had blown out of my mother's house. After the storm was all over with, Paul nailed boards over them. We stayed there because our Shanty was so badly damaged, we couldn't use it. We lost quite a lot of stuff.

When we started to build our house, Lowell had grown to where he could be a lot of help. Paul and Lowell did a large

part of the work, but everybody, friends, family, helped. We had to hire professional people to build the chimney, and put in the electricity and water system. It is small but comfortable: kitchen, living room and bathroom downstairs. There are two bedrooms upstairs and there is a cellar under the whole house which contains the furnace and water pump and plenty of storage for winter vegetables and canned goods. We were happy to have our house, at last.

A big change in our lives occurred when Lowell joined the United States Army. When his Korean tour of duty ended, he returned home. In 1960, on October 15, he and Janet Sherman were married.

To the questions, "what other types of work did you do besides those mentioned previously?", Marion replied, "I've always made handcrafts and sold them to anyone who was interested: crochet, knitting, braided rugs, and handcraft that was popular.

When needed, I always took care of sick family and friends. I gave piano lessons for several years and played in churches for many years. We always enjoyed family get-togethers with music and singing.

For twenty-nine years, I took the Richmond School Census--went to every house in the Town--had to record names and ages of all children and pre-school through high school. I had to put in a lot of time and travel but I enjoyed talking with all the people.

For a period of time, several local farmers were raising chickens and, at times, needed help to debark baby chicks and do 'capetting.' With the arrival of baby chicks on the farm, each chick was removed from the box, then its beak was 'tipped' to prevent the chicks from pecking at and damaging each other. The capetting process neutered both male and female chickens, thus producing heavier birds for the food market. A chemical pellet was injected under the skin of nearly full-grown chickens. This process is now outlawed.

I helped Leslie and Edith Dawley during potato harvests. Edith drove the tractor; the machine dug the potatoes and carried them over a long heavy wire apron which ran continuously. The machine dug up stones as well as potatoes. Aldine Kolyer and I rode at the back of the machine, throwing stones and weeds off the apron. It was such a dirty, dusty, nasty job that we wore masks over our faces. Leslie, John Pearson and Clary Palmer bagged and loaded the potatoes as they were ready. Then they were taken to the grading machine in the barn. The machine sorted them according to size but people had to make sure no stones or weeds remained. After being graded, the potatoes were

put into huge bins in cold storage barns. I stopped doing that about the time Leslie sold his farm.

I started taking ceramic lessons at Tug Hollow Ceramics soon after they set up shop and continued with them for several years until they sold out and moved to Florida. In the meantime, my sister Verna Pearson set up a ceramics shop. I've been taking lessons with her and working with her ever since. I do some pouring procedures as well as the painting and have given demonstrations to 4-H Clubs and Senior Citizens' groups.

Ever since I was a young girl, I've written poems on nature, about happenings, trips, memories, and spiritual. Different organizations have asked me to write poems to be read at their meetings. Many of my poems were printed in the Westerly Sun. All I ever sent in were used, except one. That was about the race track proposed for Richmond--a controversial subject.

For fifty years or so, I've had problems with arthritic conditions, some spells of which kept me in bed for weeks or months at a time. I have angina, which is controlled. Because of disintegrating vertebrae, I've worn a back brace about five years.

I was brought up in and always lived in a Christian atmosphere and have attended church regularly since I was born.

Paul and I have been married 56 years. Lowell and Janet have given us three grandchildren.

Nowadays, I'm satisfied to set aside some of my handcrafts to simply enjoy people."

Interviewer and recorder,
Eleanor H. Smith
Friend and Neighbor

Marion is one of our Town's unsung heroines. She perhaps never held a public office or had her name in headlines, but she is the type of person who reaches out and touches the lives around her, perhaps time and time again, enriching those lives and making a better world because of her presence. It is the Marions and others like her who make the heartbeat of a small town.

Thank you, Marion, for being a part of Richmond history.



Wyoming, Rhode Island 02898

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"BRICK SUNDAY"

Those of you who are interested in a little historic exploration are invited to meet at the New London Turnpike end of White Oak Drive. From there we will travel to Acorn Road and meet Mrs. Ralph Gould who is going to show us the site of an interesting brick oven-type structure and the surrounding area which has many foundations, sluice-ways, and mysteries. This is on private property, of course, and cannot be traversed without guide or permission.

Betty says the water table is high, so be sure to wear good boots. If we have much more rain this week, the excursion will have to be postponed, but according to today's weather report, the hunt is on!

Date: Sunday, April 15, 1984, 2:15 P. M. If you are planning to attend, please call 539-7676, so no-one will be left behind.

NEXT MEETING

Don't miss this! Archeology is the topic. Mr. Paul Robinson, Chief Archaeologist with the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission will give us an illustrated talk on prehistoric (pre-1700) Rhode Island archeological findings, leading into some information about our own Richmond mill districts, and perhaps mention some Indian sites. He will also speak on site preservation and the proper way to "do your own dig." Questions will be welcome.

Betty Gould will also be with us to explain more about the personal research she had been doing in her area. She, and perhaps

we, will have slides of the brick structure and surrounding topography that is to be the subject of our "Brick Sunday" walk.

This promises to be a great program from which to learn more about Richmond history and gain insight into a by-gone era as well as to learn some new techniques for authentic, conservative exploration of your own. Plan to be with us, and bring a friend!

Time: Sunday, April 29, 1984, 2:00 P. M.

Place: Bell School Museum (we will move to the Town Hall if the size of the group warrants it.)



IN MEMORIAM

On February 15, 1984 our Society lost one of its members, Mrs. Marjorie Clarke Stedman, wife of Oliver Stedman, local historian, and mother of Sally Hoyle (Mrs. John C. Hoyle) of Beaver River Road, Richmond. Another daughter survives her: Phyllis Hansen (Mrs. Fred Hansen) of Middle Haddam, Connecticut. She was also mother of the late Oliver Stedman, Jr., of Exeter and sister of Ella Caswell of Wakefield.

Marjorie was born in South Kingstown, lived her life in various sections of the town and was educated in South Kingstown Schools.

The historical interests of Marjorie and Oliver led them to join the Richmond Historical Society in 1968 where they were actively involved until recent years. We will all miss Marjorie's special brand of humor and enjoyment of life.



THINGS TO COME, here----

May is Heritage Month and once again the Richmond Historical Society has chosen to honor a village in exhibition at the Bell School Museum. The Village of Kenyon will be displayed in picture, artifact, and fabric this year. If you or someone you know has items typical of Kenyon village life which would be available for loan during the exhibit, please let us know. The more things we have, the greater significance our story will have.

Exhibit hours: Sunday, May 20th, 2:00 - 5:00 P. M., with a guest speaker to open the program.
 Wednesday, May 23, and Saturday and Sunday, May 26 and 27, (Wednesday, 1-4 P. M., the week-end, 2-4 P. M.
 By appointment on May 21, 22, 24, 25 (call 539-7676 or 539-7683)

---and elsewhere:

A Tour into the Past The Foster Preservation Society will sponsor a bus tour of Moosup Valley and surrounding areas of Foster on Sunday, May 20, 1984. Tours will leave the Moosup Valley Church at 1:00 p. m. and 1:30 p.m. and will last approximately 2½ hours each. Your \$7.00 ticket includes the bus tour, narrated by Foster preservation Society members, along the back roads of town, slides of the area shown in the Moosup Valley Church, a tour of the historic Mount Vernon Tavern and refreshments served in the Moosup Valley Grange. For tickets call: 397-9325 or 647-3950 or send \$7.00 or each ticket to: Foster Preservation Society, Box 51, Foster, R. I. 02825. The deadline for ordering tickets is May 14, 1984.

7th Annual Wickford House Tour Saturday, May 12, 1984 10:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. A selection of homes in the historic Wickford area will be open to the public. The Old Narragansett Church, St. Paul's Church and the First Baptist Church will also be featured. Tickets are \$6.00 each and may be purchased by sending a check and self-addressed envelope to LINKS (Laymen in North Kingstown Schools) Wickford House Tour, P. O. Box 86, North Kingstown, R. I. 02852.

& & & & & &

We have received a PRESERVATION ACTION ALERT with the bid that our help is needed. Here's how it goes, in brief: Your Help is Needed. Lobbying is needed now to place the heritage bond issue on the November ballot...It will provide \$14 million for the historic and natural heritage of the state, including \$8.5 million targeted for historic preservation projects.

Preservation Action!/Rhode Island is joining with a broad consortium of environmental planners, conservationists, and historians to urge the state legislature to support the New Heritage Bond issue, introduced on behalf of the Governor.

March 3, 1984. Once we are sure it will appear on the November ballot, we will begin.

Of special interest to Preservation Action members are the following components of H-9000:

Historic Preservation Revolving Fund \$2.0 million
 The State House \$4.0 million
 Fort Adams \$500,000
 Blackstone Linear Park, Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed, other unique natural areas \$2.0 million
 Scarborough Beach \$1.5 million
 Natural Heritage Revolving Fund \$2.0 million
 Farmland Preservation \$2.0 million.

We are being urged to write or call our district legislators in addition to Speaker Matthew J. Smith, House Finance Committee Chairman Robert S. Tucker, Majority Leader Joseph DeAngelis, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Robert J. McKenna, and Senate Majority Leader John C. Revens with our views on having this bond issue appear on the November referendum ballot.

I have further discription of each of these items. If you are interested and want more information, please call me at 539-7676 after 6:00 P. M.



IN AND AROUND TOWN

Who among you remembers the Sherman Brothers, Bill and Charlie? Stone walls, a house built in 1738, a big maple, out-builings. and 1740 acres of crop land, pasture and woodlot in Exeter and Richmond comprised the home of these two gentlemen. Bachelors, farmers, music makers, and hunters were they; generous and conversant were they; and above all, historians and gun collectors and marksmen were they. They taught my Dad, Earl Smith, to shoot and twenty-five years later, they taught me to pop a clam shell or two -- enough so that they were pleased with their tutelage at any rate; Charlie especially.

The following is an excerpt from an article about these special Sherman gentlemen which appeared in "The Rhode Islander" magazine of the Providence Sunday Journal dated September 7, 1947: William Thomas Sherman, 76, and Charles Sherman, 71, have lived with their guns all their lives in their grandfather's old farm house a half mile from the Richmond town line. Living in the wild backwoods of Exeter, the brothers keep loaded shot-guns above every window and door in their 209-year-old farmhouse on Hog House Hill Road just in case of trouble. Protected by more than a hundred old and new guns, revolvers, swords and other weapons, the two white-haired, white-moustached farmers are ready for any emergency and any tough customers.

"My great grandfather, Eber Sherman, went into the Revolutionary War as a private and came out a captain. We've got his guns and swords, too," Charles said with pride. William is occasionally called the General after General William Tecumseh Sherman of Civil War fame, to whom, the Shermans will tell you, they are related and who sword they own. Jesse James is another character from whom they say they are descended. Almost every Sunday William and Charles have target practice outside the back door. The brothers prefer teaching young girls to shoot. "Don't bother to bring your 15-year-old boy along. They're pig-headed at that age. The girls will do just what you tell them to do. With boys, you've got to knock them over the head," Charles declared.

The Shermans were experts in harness racing in their time. John Sherman is a director of the former Rhode Island State Fair Association. Charles was a grocer on Beach Street, Westerly, 40 years ago. William once served as Exeter representative in the General Assembly.

In discussing history, they feel most secure. They reminisce, "These Shermans played a big part in the settling of this country." They will tell you that their ancestors on both sides, Roger Sherman and Christopher Hayward, signed the Declaration of Independence. Critical of present-day education and the Republican machine which they said "has caused the town to go down when other towns have gone ahead," they argue that "law should be made to benefit the many, not the few. We formed this government on the will of the majority, but today it isn't a question of the majority."

Editorial note: Sometimes we wondered whether all the stories were absolutely true, but there was little doubt that they were based on facts. The gun collection was large and wonderful, lovingly kept in excellent operating condition by the brothers. The brothers, the collection, and now even the house have long been gone, but there are still those who remember and have had their lives shaped at least a little by the Sherman boys.

I remember that as a small child we often spent Sunday afternoons there and sometimes a large group would gather for skeet shooting. A friend and I would wait for a round of shooting to stop then quickly scurry out to pick up all the shotgun shells to wear on our fingers, so that we looked like, but never dreamed of, today's robots. The shooters always waited for us to "clear the field" and made sure we were back in position behind them before shooting again. Chowder was always the order of the day as I recall. It was also Charlie who showed me that if a magnet dragged through the dirt it would gather a considerable amount of iron and that if those pieces of iron were put on a paper and the magnet drawn along underneath the paper, the iron particles would upend themselves and follow the magnet along like so many soldiers. Such are memories and profiles past.



Wyoming, Rhode Island 02898

NEWSLETTER

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ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, June 24, 1984
5:00 P. M.
Carolina Volunteer Fire Station
Route 112

Many years ago someone in the Society suggested that our annual meeting should be more elaborate--more festive--a time when people would want to come and celebrate yet another year of successful endeavors in recording the Town's history and developing genealogies. So, O. K., let's have a covered dish supper and a social time rather than an evening beleaguered by tedious reporting! And so we did, and have, and are continuing to do so.

Your ticket to this fun time is a covered dish containing one of your favorite recipes! Please bring also your place setting. We've developed another tradition at this meeting that I hope lasts and long time, and that is "Hank" Handell making jonny cakes for us. Jean has promised to be there to give Hank moral support and to slice the butter. Believe me, we are very pleased to have both of them back with us this year.

We will, of course, have an election of officers. There are exciting things to be shared in the Society and the archives, but we need more hands to make the projects come alive. Please give the prospect careful consideration if one of the Nominating Committee members should call on you for help. We all have only a little time to give, but many littles put together make and mean a lot!

A NECESSARY RE-RUN

We have had a number of people say how sorry they were to miss our program on the Necessary Outhouse last year. So-o-o-o-o, we decided to have a return performance for this annual meeting. The program includes a slide show, plus cartoons, plus story-telling. The slide show has been expanded with some interesting additions; even those who were with us last year will not want to miss this one. COME ONE, COME ALL.

"BRICK SUNDAY"

The water table lowered enough for us to finally take a look at some of the foundations, and field layouts being researched by Betty Gould. What appears to be the remains of a very well established farm sits well back into the woods hidden from today's civilization. There apparently was a house several out-buildings, and a water mill of some sort. Indications are that several generations of activity took place in the area and that there were perhaps more than one farm involved in the settlement.

The terrain makes one wonder how anyone could make a living farming among the rocks, but we all know that this was one of the Rhode Island plantation areas in the days of the naming of the State and perhaps the need for a lot of land for sustenance explains the large acreage involved. The bricks which still have us somewhat puzzled appeared to be part of a chimney/fireplace structure at the house site. They were probably part of a large cooking kitchen.

The day was lovely, with few insects to distract us. The light was excellent for photographing, and the woods were just beginning to green. We want to thank Betty for taking time from her busy schedule to guide us through this step backward in Richmond's time.

FUTURE TOURS

Your Executive Committee is developing wanderlust and we are looking into the possibility of a Fall tour to historic Hartford, the Wadsworth Atheneum with its newly organized American galleries, and the Mark Twain house. Watch for more about this in the Fall Newsletter.

HERITAGE MONTH REPORT

The Bell School Museum was fitted out with a mini-exhibit on the Village of Kenyon and opened to the public two week-ends in addition to the usual Wednesday afternoon in May. We were somewhat surprised at how little from the Village of Kenyon that we have in the archives, but we were pleased with the diversity we found. Kenyon Mill was of course the highlight. Earl and Helen Brunskill contributed several booklets put out by the

mill management over the years for the exhibit. This nice addition was greatly appreciated.

Many thank yous also go to Eleanor Smith who spent a number of hours assembling material for us; Eddie Britland and Ray Bader for getting the yard in shape; Virginia Williams for organizing boxes, helping us to find some things we didn't know we had, and helping to set up the exhibit; the Baders and the Britlands for exhibit sitting several times.

We had an unusual group of visitors this year. On opening day of the exhibit, about five motorcyclists stopped by, came in, chatted, and studied the maps. We soon learned they were on a "Mystery Ride" for muscular dystrophy and Bell School was one of their assigned stops. They needed to record the dates on the plaque on the front of the building as proof that they had made that stop. Before the afternoon was over about 250 cyclists rendezvoused with us; many of whom were quite pleased to find us open so they could come in and see what we were all about!

ARCHIVES

A Consumers Dairy milk bottle and an unusual syphen cream separator c. 1900-1910 were donated by Ray and Ida Bader. They also took some excellent pictures during our "Brick walk" and contributed them to the archives as well. Thank you, Ray and Ida.

A LOOK INTO THE PAST

We have a nice collection of Hope Valley Advertisers in the Archives and I thought you might like to have a look at what was happening to whom 70 years ago in Richmond.
June 4, 1914--

Henry F. Woodmansee was elected a member of the Richmond Town Council on Tuesday for the 25th term.

Tent caterpillars are more prevalent than ever this year, and it is thought there will be two generations of them. The towns are doing nothing in the way of destroying the nests at the side of the roadways.

The telephones in the Hope Valley central will be changed over to the magneto system on July 1st. The present automatic system will be discarded and a number of pay stations will be installed for the benefit of those who have no phone but who wish to use one occasionally.

In the town of Richmond a bi-partisan list of officers was nominated by the Republicans, with no opposition, and 90 ballots were cast. The officers elected, with one or two exceptions, are the same as last year:

Moderator--H. F. Woodmansee
Town Clerk--Oscar E. Barber
Town Council--H. F. Woodmansee, H. G. Clark, B. B. Cornell,
N. A. Collins, J. W. Saunders.
Town Treasurer--Chas. J. Greene
Town Sergeant--B. B. Moore

School Committee--J. W. Saunders

Justices of the peace--T. H. Barber, A. J. Dawley,
H. L. Barber, John Hopkins, A. W. Kenyon.

In Wood River Junction--The recent observance of "Members' Day" by the Ladies Missionary Society was most successful in every way. Addresses were given in the afternoon by John W. Little of Pawtucket on "The Call of the World to the Women of Rhode Island" and Mrs. Geo. Rooke of Providence on "Progress Toward Victory." Mrs. Hannah Matteson of Hope Valley was present in the afternoon. Mrs. Matteson, who is 91 years of age and for very many years has been a worker in the W.C.T.U., came to meet Mrs. Rooke, the president of the State W.C.T.U.

June 25, 1914--

Miss Mary C. Barber of this village (Carolina) celebrated her ninetieth birthday on Friday of last week, by giving a dinner to near relatives, and a reception to her friends and neighbors. Miss Barber is a remarkably well preserved woman and made her own preparations for the event, making the birthday cake herself. There were nine who enjoyed the dinner with her, and about 40 who called to offer congratulations. Miss Barber received many gifts, among them being books, handkerchiefs, boxes of confectionery, beautiful flowers, and a cake from Miss Sarah Money, garnished with hearts and trimmed with a wreath of roses. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hoxsie of Slocum presented Miss Barber with a bouquet containing 90 carnations. The napkins used on the occasion were ornamented with the figures "90" in gold.

Mrs. Eliza Beresford, Mrs. Sarah Brooks, Mrs. Evelyn A. Barber, Mrs. Hattie Cole, Mrs. Nettie Brooks and Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Hamblen attended the regular meeting of Hope Rebekah Lodge at Westerly last Thursday evening.

Miss Minnie Moore and Miss Ida S. Clarke, teachers in the local public school, gave their pupils an outing at Charlestown beach on Saturday. They were conveyed in several large wagons.

Misses Dorothy McVay, Jennie McNiff and Maria Kenyon, graduates of the grammar school, have taken the examinations for entrance to the Westerly High at the fall term.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Beresford and son, with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Morris are enjoying an outing at Charlestown beach.

Mrs. James McVay, who has been visiting her sisters, Misses Jennie and Emma Grimes, at Bloomfield, N. J., has returned home.

Alvah Burdick has been doing some carpenter work for W. D. Cross at Charlestown beach.

Mrs. Evelyn A. Barber is the guest of Mrs. Sarah Flier at Providence.

Arthur Cole visited his parents here over the week-end.

The circus was in Shannock last night and early this morning began to go through this village on its way to Ashaway. From there it returns to Connecticut.

Roy Matteson, who has been working in Plattsburg, N. Y., is home for a couple of days. On the way home he secured a new job in Lynn, Mass.

The Wood River Aid Society will hold their regular meeting and serve a supper at the mission rooms, Wyoming, next Wednesday from 4 to 8 o'clock. Scripture word, "Love."

The Carolina mill is nearly in condition to begin active production. Stock for manufacture is arriving and it is hoped the mill will be opened for business the first of next week.

and this, if you please! :::

Men who did not register 1st Saturday have only four more days in which to do so, and must go to the Town Clerk's office for the purpose. The election next fall will be very important.

While Dr. Knerr's condition is improving, progress towards convalescence is slow. Some days he is fairly comfortable; on others he is racked with pain and is almost discouraged. On the whole, he is probably improving.

Here's a thought provoking filler :::: The Tavistock, the bachelor's hotel in Covent Garden, is probably the only place in London where a man must drink his "dish" of tea after the fashion of a century and more ago. These dishes are cups without handles. They are larger than those used by our great-great-grandmothers, which would hardly suit the modern masculine demand. The Tavistock dishes are of uniform pattern--white china with a broad blue band.

And, if you are interested:::George H. Barber of Hope Valley had for sale six shoats, weighing from 75 to 100 pounds.

ENOUGH OF THE PAST FOR NOW, BACK TO THE PRESENT

DUES FOR THE RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN 1984 REMAIN AS THEY HAVE BEEN FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS: \$3.00 and dues are now due!

See you at the annual meeting.