

The Bridge

Newspaper of the
Pawtuxet Village Association



The Changing Landscape of our Historic Village



By SUSAN HARTMAN

It's not often that major buildings or large areas of land in the Pawtuxet area are available for redevelopment. But in January of this year a proposed plan for a mixed-use project on what was formerly the site of Hunter's Garage at 9 Post Road in Warwick was introduced. The presentation and schematic by ZDS Architecture on behalf of Albaco, LLC was open to the public via a Zoom meeting. Albaco, LLC is run by the Albanese family, which owns and rents several buildings in Pawtuxet.

The proposed redevelopment of the site included a large restaurant with outdoor dining and a smaller business (possibly a bank) on the first floor. Eight apartments would be on the second and third floors, and the design included a rooftop deck.

There was considerable interest on the part of many residents as to how this plan would impact the mostly residential community on the southern side of the bridge. It's of particular interest to the PVA as our mission is the protection and preservation of historic structures and the history of the village as one of the first



Rendered image of proposed structure with deck overhanging the riverbank. Source: ZDS presentation.

CHANGING LANDSCAPE continued on page 9

From Wall Street to Pawtuxet With Roses



By MARK HOWARD

In the last few years, the Pawtuxet Village Association has been the grateful beneficiary of three generous grants from the Vivian J. Palmieri Charitable Trust. These grants have helped the PVA plan for and execute aesthetic upgrades to the Village—first in the traffic island at the meeting of Post Road and Narragansett Parkway and now dramatic garden renovations and new landscaping for Pawtuxet Park. In addition, the Edgewood Waterfront Preservation Association has created a magnificent rose garden at Stillhouse Cove thanks to a Palmieri Fund grant. This continued generosity heightened our curiosity and led several to ask—“Who was Vivian J. Palmieri?”

Vivian Jerry Palmieri was born May 23, 1928 in New York City. Vivian was the namesake of his father, but his friends and colleagues called him Jerry. Jerry attended the prestigious Deerfield Academy then went on to Williams



Vivian and Lelia Palmieri

College. In 1950, he graduated with a degree in Economics and then served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War years. In 1963, he joined Wall Street's reputable Franklin Templeton Investments in its formative years where he successfully managed their flagship Franklin Growth Fund and became one of the longest tenured investment managers of his day. The fund is still in existence today with over \$20 billion of assets.

Mr. Palmieri was the first-ever distinguished sole recipient of Morningstar's Fund Manager of the Year Award, first given in 1987. Due to his stature in the investment community, Jerry Palmieri was allowed to work remotely from Jamestown, Rhode Island—a place he became familiar with in his youth—rather than join the new Franklin Templeton headquarters

WALL STREET continued on page 20



The Pawtuxet Village Association is committed to the preservation of our National Register Historic District. We strive to stay abreast of issues affecting the District and encourage proper management of period architecture. We seek to protect our natural resources, improve important sites, and foster good community relations.

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Message from the Chair



By ADRIAN BEAULIEU, PVA CO-CHAIR

Post-Pandemic Era – New Age for Village Flaneurs

I've pretty much been a flaneur most of my life. Without knowing it. Perhaps even in spite of myself. What is a "flaneur" you might ask. Sounds a bit risqué—is that French? Do you need some kind of degree or training for this? Or is this yet another social media meme or clever hashtag tweet by the young to designate a group of people that we don't seem to hear or know much about?

Well, the expression does come out of nineteenth-century France where well-off French men would leisurely, mostly aimlessly, stroll the streets of Paris merely observing life and whatever might be occurring in the parks, outdoor cafes, and tree-brimmed boulevards. From this rather privileged lassitude, flaneuring gradually evolved to a more positive sense of someone (including women now, or flaneuses) wandering with some purpose, intentionally observing their surroundings, noticing things that were always there—or new things even—perhaps for the first time. And with practice, over time, doing so can evolve into an aesthetic multi-sensory enjoyment and appreciation of what is there waiting to be discovered, examined, recognized, even savored.

Unfortunately, until just recently, the last year has been a terrible mostly verboten-like wasted time for us flaneurs. Like many, I essentially became a hermit. Not in some monastery but rather in my own home. I only ventured out, fully masked, like some nocturnal bandit in the quest of food, essential varying paper rolls, and more than enough wine to resolve the sad grim situation the guests found themselves in at the wedding at Cana.

Thankfully, with two vaccines now in many arms, we can once again venture out and sufficiently resume the many daily life tasks, activities, even celebrations we had stolen from us by a virus about the size of Pluto from Earth. Why, I've even been to two fully vaccinated birthday celebrations in the last two months—one being my own!

Village flaneurs, the time has indeed come for us to emerge from our self-defined monastic cells. And return once more to the streets of Pawtuxet. Only now, with a renewed sense of not sleepwalking zombie-like up or down Broad Street as we may have hundreds of times already over many years or even decades. But now doing so intentionally, with purpose. To discover something about the Village that we should notice, learn, worry or wonder about. Yet roaming freely, as a true flaneur would.

What might you discover? For instance, how many times have you walked over the bridge? Do you know there's a plaque there that tells you the year it was built? What year was the Village founded? Every blue street sign tells you that. And if you go slightly astray and become more of a curious surveyor, you might come upon the two stone markers that commemorate the Burning of the *Gaspee* and where Fort Hill was located, garrisoned by the Pawtuxet Rangers to protect the Village during the Revolutionary War.

And by the way, just so it's clear, you can flaneur anywhere. You don't have to be in Paris to do this well or someday become a renowned literary or Olympic gold-medal flaneur. Then again, I wouldn't mind being there again in doing just that. Until then, the Village will do just fine.

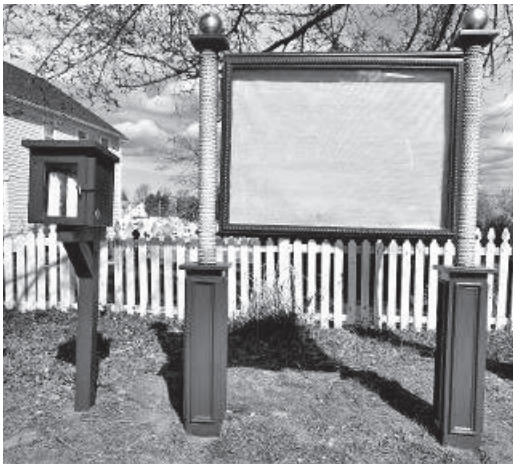
If you wish, please share your Village flaneur or flaneuse stories with Adrian at adrianbeaulieu900@gmail.com ❖

PVA BULLETIN BOARD FACELIFT

Several years have passed since we initially installed the bulletin board (next to O'Rourke's), so it was time for a much-needed refreshing now that it has survived the elements and seasons so close to the water.

Our good friend and supporter, Ray Mooney, assisted again by repairing the back of the board, painting and lining the box and the posts, and even repainted *The Bridge* newspaper box we use for distribution. We are good for at least another five years and thank Ray for his fabulous support!

The bulletin board is available for notices and schedules of events and other community activities of Pawtuxet. We encourage all organizations in Pawtuxet and Edgewood to utilize the space. Contact us if you need to get access to the box at: pawtuxetvillageassociation@gmail.com



Get Connected

If you haven't visited the PVA website recently, you should check us out. Go online to www.pawtuxetvillageassociation.org for news, photos, and back issues of *The Bridge*.

SHARE WITH US! Link to our Facebook page and post your photos and news of the village.



Volunteers Needed: Pawtuxet Village Garden Group



By Mark Howard

Caretakers for our village bridge boxes and volunteers for the Pawtuxet Park gardens are much needed! Our bridge boxes are a high-profile village aesthetic, and last year we received much positive feedback. But we are currently in need of volunteers who wish to adopt a box or two to water and care for from late May through September. Two volunteers per box to share daily watering would be ideal. Or alternate volunteers who can fill in so caretakers can take time for vacations, etc. It is a great way to contribute to the beauty of Pawtuxet Village and maintain a much-appreciated tradition.

We are also looking for volunteers for Pawtuxet Park. We offer both scheduled weekly evenings (TBA) as well as independent volunteer opportunities where folks can volunteer according to their own flexible schedule. We have many projects planned for the spring and summer, including renovating several gardens, re-planting some areas, and completing our new shade garden. The gardens are always in need of planting, weeding, raking, pruning etc. Do we have any rose experts?

So please volunteer; it's fun, educational, and you'll meet lots of your good neighbors. Bring your creativity and garden tools!

Projects for Pawtuxet Park in 2021 include:

- **Completing renovations we started last year in the shade garden, replanting the raised garden and establishing rose gardens, thanks to the generous grants received from the Vivian J. Palmieri Charitable Trust.**
- **In the shade garden, the hostas were encroaching upon the walkway, so we moved them back.**
- **We added some ornamental grasses, liriopse and Japanese hakone, for more texture. This spring we'll plant more ferns and astilbes to fill out the area.**
- **Last summer we planted roses along the waterfront. The row-boat garden bed is surrounded by rose bushes on both sides.**
- **Finally, last year we restored the Ed Greer memorial garden and we'll continue to make enhancements to it. After our restoration, the seating area was often used as a gathering point and sitting area by park visitors.**

To volunteer for the PVA Garden Group, contact Mark at markhoward1102@gmail.com or call him at 212-807-9244.



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The Pawtuxet Village Association is raising the flags once again! Each year the flags fly from Memorial Day to the 4th of July, proudly decorating our main streets. We invite you to help us maintain this fine tradition by becoming a flag sponsor for a donation of \$15 for one flag or \$25 for two flags. Your donation can be made in honor of someone, as a family gift or as a tribute to someone special. Your sponsorship will help us defray the cost and maintenance of the flags. Sponsor names will be listed on our website and in the fall issue of *The Bridge*.

Cut out or copy and mail this form with check or money order to: PVA, P.O. Box 8626, Pilgrim Station, Warwick, RI 02888. **Please write the word "flags" at the bottom of your check.** THANK YOU!

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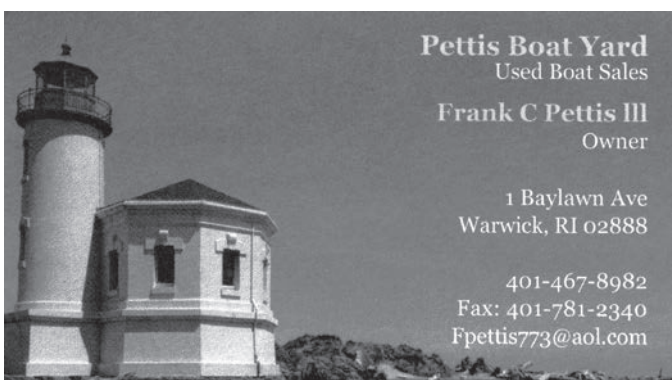
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Scouts Contribute Again



By ROY EVANS, PVA CO-CHAIR

Last fall, when our local Boy Scout troop was planning to repair and repaint the gazebo in Pawtuxet Park as part of an Eagle project, another Eagle Scout candidate, Matt Weeden, had the idea for his own Eagle project. Looking at the number of people in the park and the limited seating, he asked if he could build three new picnic tables for the park as his project. The City of Warwick and the PVA enthusiastically said "Yes!" and we willingly made a donation to help support his efforts.

An Eagle project requires the candidate to conceive of, get approval and funding for, organize and manage the troop members to complete the project on time and on budget, then turn the project over to the sponsor. In this case, Matt organized members of his troop and built three tables, stained them and set them up in three relatively flat spots in the park. Matt did his homework on various wood species and settled on Douglas Fir for its durability. The tables are stained and sealed and have a unique feature—the ends extend well beyond the frame which allows a chair or wheel-chair to be pulled up underneath them.

We congratulate and thank Matt Weeden and Scout Troop 4 Gaspee for this wonderful project. The tables are already in regular use and they add gathering spots to our beautiful park. Well done! ❖



The Edgewood Village Has Arrived

By BARBARA SCHERMACK

You may have heard about the Edgewood Village or perhaps you have neighbors who are members and/or volunteers. In the fall of 2014, a small group of people living on the East Side of Providence was inspired by the national Village Movement and what had been accomplished in other communities around the country to enhance the experience of growing older and to support older adults who wish to remain in their own homes. In 2015, they launched The Providence Village, and spent the next four years providing volunteer support services such as transportation, errands, tech help and household chores to their members along with social activities like lectures, concerts, and special interest groups. In 2019 the Board of The Providence Village realized that despite their very visible success, the long-term sustainability of The Providence Village—or any Village in Rhode Island—would be strengthened by a network of other Villages throughout the state.

Enter the Edgewood Village. We are now one of three local villages which, along with Providence and Barrington, comprise The Village Common of RI ("TVC"). Our volunteers can provide services to members as well as friendly calls and visits. A small group of friends began meeting in the fall of 2019 to talk about this idea, and we became an official Village in July 2020.

We are currently operating on a limited basis due to the COVID crisis, but offer technology support, friendly calls, and other assistance that does not involve in-person meeting. Our members are also eligible to participate in the activities and benefits of TVC. In January, we began weekly Winter Walks in Roger Williams Park, with a sizable number of neighbors and members joining for a vigorous walk around one of the many paths in the park. The weekly walks continued through the spring and may be extended based on interest.

In April we created an event to bring together people in the neighborhood who may have expressed interest in the Village but who have not joined the organization. The one-hour virtual event included information, testimonials, story-telling and a musical interlude. We have also established an Inclusion Committee which is working to promote involvement of underserved residents and improve our outreach to every part of our neighborhood.

We continue to recruit new members and are looking to build our corps of volunteers so that we can expand services. If you're interested, please contact Barbara Schermack at 401-245 6650 or visit our site at Edgewood@villagecommonri.org You can also call The Village Common office at 401-441-5240 or visit their website, at www.providencevillageri.org for more information, and look for Edgewood Village's pages under the Our Villages tab. ❖

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Letter from Beatrice

In February of this year, the PVA received a letter and donation from Beatrice Tashian. We took the opportunity to meet her and learn more about who she is, and to thank her for her support.

Beatrice Tashian and her family came to the Pawtuxet area in 1927 where she started first grade at the South Atlantic Avenue School. Her first grade teacher was Miss Sheldon.

She attended Sunday school at the Pawtuxet Baptist church “because there were no other churches.” Her mother didn’t take her to the Sunday services, but wanted her to attend Sunday School. Her teacher was Madaleine Harris. We knew her as Madaleine Toy.

Beatrice remembers riding the trolley up Fair Street and swimming at the bottom of Canonchet Avenue. Sometimes her mother would pack a lunch and she’d walk with her brother to Gaspee Point for a picnic. She said the beach was better there.

At 100 years old she lives independently doing her own housekeeping and cooking. She is grateful for close friends who live next door on either side who “look after her.”

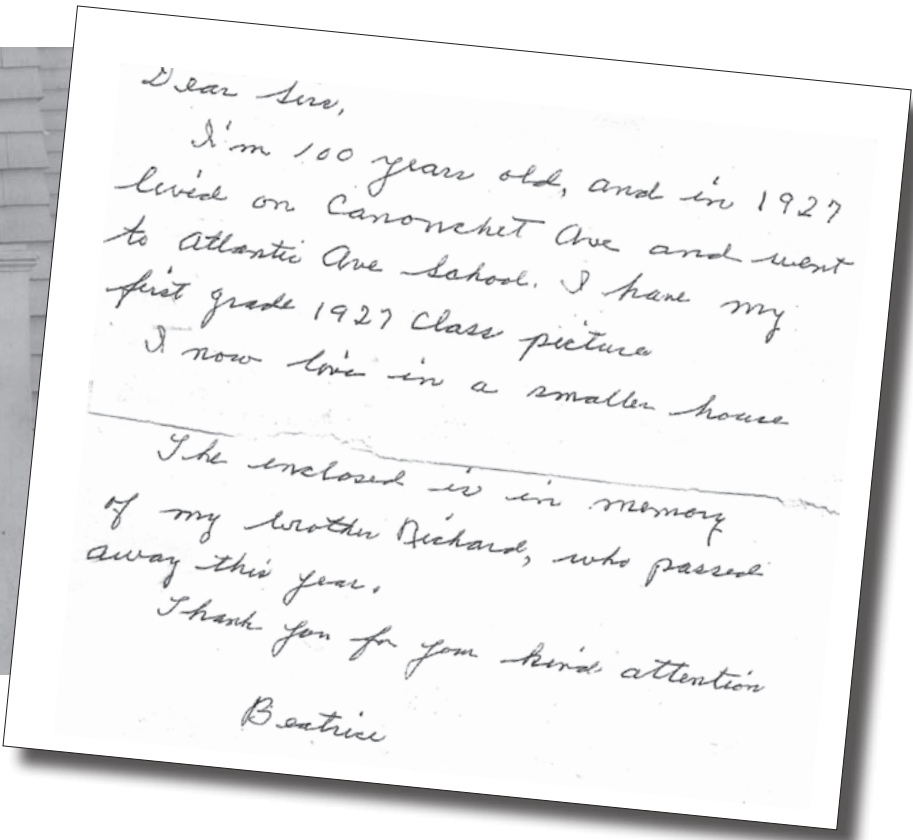
Beatrice reads *The Bridge* faithfully as did her brother Richard in Michigan who passed away last year.

The board of the PVA was greatly cheered to receive her donation and beautifully handwritten note.

— A dear reader



ABOVE: Beatrice and Richard in Michigan for her birthday in 1992. BELOW, LEFT: Beatrice in the middle of the second row from the top. First grade 1927, South Atlantic Avenue School.



Village Parking

Dear Editor:

I don’t travel into the Village as much as I used to. When I run into a store it is during the week when the parking is a little easier.

I realize Broad Street is a short street and becomes congested at peak times, especially during the summer. Saturday nights the streets and parking lots are full. For those of us who know where to park, the problem isn’t too severe, but with the proposed building at the old Hunter’s gas station will we see a big change to our quaint little street?

We have about a dozen restaurants in the Village. Only two of these have parking lots. Besides the spots on Broad Street, there are twenty-five spots at the Boat-house, seventy spots at the Shriners, two hundred spots at Rhodes and two hundred twenty spots at The Scottish Rite building. The stores and church on Broad Street do not allow parking. When I last looked, there was only one vacant store front (quite unusual for COVID times). Parking along Broad Street on both sides of the bridge is free. Not like Providence with meters everywhere.

We are highlighted in Rhode Island tourism materials. But, are we growing out of our quaint little section? With the proposed building at Hunters, do we need a trolley for tourists to enter our village from outlying parking spots? Or do we put up with overcrowding?

— Joyce F. Almeida, Warwick



Photo by Jim Turner.

Happy Spring!
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May Baskets

By JOYCE ALMEIDA



Many years ago when I was a young girl, I would make May baskets with my mother. We would decorate them with crepe paper, pick flowers from our garden and make cookies to go inside. On May 1st morning I would take the May baskets to special neighbors and put them at their front door; ring their bell and run home. These neighbors would always call me later in the day and thank me, making me feel special.



As the years passed and I joined Edgewood Congregational Church and volunteered on the May breakfast committee, I introduced the May baskets to them. The women of the church would gather to decorate paper cups with crepe paper and fill them with candy and other baked goods. I always loved this custom. I have seen them made from milk cartons or shaped in a cone from wallpaper samples. May Day celebration commemorates the change from chilly and rainy months to warmer, happier ones. It began with pagan rituals in Germany and was later adopted by the Christians. Over the years my current church has filled our May baskets with candy and sold hundreds of them on the first Sunday in May. I have tried many kinds of candy recipes, but the best and easiest one comes from my sister-in-law in West Virginia. This recipe never fails if you follow the directions exactly. I have a good size microwave, but I don't think a smaller one would change the results. Good luck!

FANTIST FUDGE

- ¾ cup (1 ½ sticks) margarine
- 1 pkg. (12 oz.) chips (any kind)
- 3 cups sugar
- 1 jar (7 oz.) marshmallow cream (I use Fluff)
- 1 (5 oz.) can evaporated milk (use 2/3 cup)
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup nuts (optional)

Microwave instructions: Lightly grease 13"x 9" pan. Microwave margarine in a 4-quart microwaveable bowl on high 1 minute or until melted. Add sugar and milk; mix well and microwave on high 5 minutes or until mixture begins to boil. Leave in microwave for 3 minutes (DO NOT OPEN DOOR). Take out and stir well, scraping the bowl. Microwave on high 4 1/2 minutes, leave in microwave for an additional 3 minutes (DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR). Take out and stir in chips until melted. Add marshmallow cream, vanilla and nuts. Pour into prepared pan and cool at room temperature. I like to make maple walnut fudge by replacing white sugar with light brown sugar and using white chips. I change the vanilla to a teaspoon and add ½ teaspoon of maple flavoring and walnuts. ♦

Starstruck

A POEM BY FREDERICK FULLERTON

Some folks stare at night's sky
and see only points of light
blinking coyly in the murk
above, yet miss the drama born
when the heavens sang to muses
and inspired legends and myths
spun by ancient storytellers
from the images of myriad stars.

Stars proffer a compass and clock
long-used to navigate travel
or measure our time in seasons
as astronomers still ponder
galaxies and their baffling
propinquity and journeys into infinity.

Night's mysteries and magic
fade as first light heralds dawn
and we're distracted with day's tasks
until we're starstruck again at gloaming.



Here’s to the Clam



By Dave Aspray

Life can be hard but we all like to eat (can you say comfort food?), and it seems in the grand scheme of things pretty much all of us have been blessed with a local delicacy of some sort. Of course, there are many but now I’m thinking specifically of our native hard-shelled clams, ubiquitous, silent, and hidden out of sight at the same time. A native natural food source that’s sustained us forever or, as chief sachem Canonicus put it, since the time out of mind. Oh, the littlenecks on the half shell, baked stuffed clams, clam casinos, spaghetti and clam sauce, clam cakes and chowder, and my favorite: quahog chowder! But how much do we really know about our seemingly simple friend the clam?

Like most of us fellow life forms, our friend *Mercenaria mercenaria*, the hard-shell clam, begins his journey as a very miniscule creature, a mere speck of a speck of uncountable numbers in a teaspoon of bay water. The life cycle of the clam is absolutely fascinating, quite different from that of us mammals, to say the least.

At one year old the juveniles are ready to reproduce and all that year’s sexually mature clams about to breed are males. At this stage, sperm is the only thing these young clams can produce; they are not yet physically mature enough for some of them to change into females as part of their unique reproductive process and contribute eggs. Come the springtime, when the water temperature reaches just the right point and all the stars align, the sperm is released and half of the previous year’s juveniles morph into females and contribute their eggs, creating a microscopic cloud of new life in the bay and the circle continues. I’ve heard old timers tell of seeing a milky looking cove on a calm summer dawn. I’ve never seen it myself but I do believe the stories. For their first eight to twelve days of life these little creatures swim freely in the water column propelled by their feet, feeding on tiny phytoplankton. Then, before the shells start to develop, the clams settle to the bottom and take up permanent residence where they could live for 40 years and grow to four inches across.

One of *Merceneria*’s cousins, a sea clam with the Latin name of *Articia Atlantica* (the infamous Howard Johnson’s “clam strip ” from days gone by) has been proven to live for hundreds of years. A phenomenon known as negligible senescence retards the ageing process for a very long time although interestingly enough, the very same creature can only reproduce for 25 years. Just imagine some old sea clam living off our coast since long before George Washington was born! After exhaustive tests, one harvested during a climate change survey off Iceland in 2006 proved to be 507 years old! The scientists named him Ming after the long-lived Ming Dynasty. Well, Ming the clam outlived the dynasty by 207 years and was considered the oldest living animal on earth. Unfortunately, old Ming, the only clam in the world given a name, would more than likely still be alive today if the scientists hadn’t cut him open to determine his age. A far better fate than a Ho-Jo’s deep fryer for such a famous bivalve I suppose.



Image by GonzaKnox from Pixabay

Our *Merceneria*, also known as quahogs, little necks, cherry stones or chowder clams, range from the Canadian Maritimes to the Yucatan peninsula although they are most prolific between Cape Cod and New Jersey. Because of just the right conditions, Narragansett Bay clams have always been considered the best. They are very fast growers with the thickest shells and longest shelf life. As one goes south the shells become much thinner and the shelf life drastically diminishes. As one goes north, “down east” so to speak, they grow and reproduce much more slowly and are nowhere near prolific enough to sustain much of a fishery, although soft-shelled steamer clams have provided a good living for generations of hard working “down-easters” for years.

Various attempts to introduce our clams elsewhere have been met with very limited success, one exception being their introduction to Southampton, Portsmouth and Langstone harbors in England. They were originally planted there with the hopes of producing eel bait and they did become self-sustaining. I’m just guessing that one of those “Lim-e-y little necks” couldn’t hold a candle to one of ours freshly dug off Patience Island’s northwest corner.

I spent almost ten years fishing clams commercially on Narragansett Bay and I don’t regret one minute of it. I always thought it was sad how so many folks looked down at quahoggers as some sort of second class citizen. Nothing could be further from the truth. These guys ran the gamut from a part-timer who was a member of the R.I. Philharmonic Orchestra to ex-cons who couldn’t find a good job anywhere else to Ph.D. holders and everything in between. One thing they all had in common was a special kind of love of freedom and of a song in the wind that the bay provided and we all knew the words. The rewards were certainly more than monetary. And these guys watched out for each other, buddy or stranger, it didn’t matter. You could count on help or a tow if you needed it.

Well. I guess it’s safe to say there’s a lot more to a clam than a couple of shells with some ugly looking guts in between. These simple creatures have been firmly woven into our lives for a very long while, creatures almost as old as time! I wouldn’t be surprised if they were still here when we’re all long gone.

Hail the clam!

I’ve included a recipe from my dad Dic Aspray from long ago. My dad was quite the character and a great cook to boot. Beware: this is more a “guide” than a recipe to follow verbatim. But trust me, it’ll make a damn good chowder! ♦

DIC'S GOOD'TUXET QUAHAUG CHOWDER DIRECTIONS & COMMENTS

INGREDIENTS

40 3-4" QUAHAUGS
1 CUP SALT PORK, CUT IN SMALL PIECES
1 CLOVE GARLIC, CHOPPED FINELY
1 2½" ONION, CHOPPED FINELY-About 3/4 Cup
SOME CELERY, CHOPPED FINELY-1 large stalk
1 PLOP OF BUTTER OR MARGERINE
5 LBS. CALIFORNIA BAKING POTATOES
½ QTS. MILK
A LITTLE PEPPER
39 PARSLEY FLAKES
2-qt Heavy Cream

DIRECTIONS


BAKE POTATOES. OPEN QUAHAUGS AND CUT INTO SMALL BITE SIZE PORTIONS. A MEAT GRINDER IS RECOMMENDED FOR GRINDING OR USE SCISSORS TO CUT THEM. SAVE HALF OF THE QUAHAUG JUICE AND KEEP ASIDE UNTIL LATER. YOU SHOULD GET ABOUT A QUART OR SO OF JUICE UPON OPENING THE QUAHAUGS. PUT SALT PORK, ONION, MARGERINE OR BUTTER, GARLIC, AND CELERY IN SKILLET AND BROWN SLIGHTLY. COMBINE QUAHAUGS AND THE INGREDIENTS YOU HAVE JUST BROWNED SLIGHTLY IN A LARGE POT WITH HALF THE QUAHAUG JUICE. BRING SLOWLY TO A LOW BOIL FOR 5 MINUTES. WARM NOT BOIL THE 3 QUARTS OF MILK AND THEN ADD IT TO THE CHOWDER IN THE POT. LIGHTLY BOIL THE REMAINING HALF OF QUAHAUG JUICE AND ADD A LITTLE BIT AT A TIME TO THE MIXTURE YOU HAVE ALREADY MADE UNTIL IT SUITS YOUR TASTE. THIS IS DONE BECAUSE IF ALL THE QUAHAUG JUICE IS USED, YOU MAY FIND IT TOO SALTY, THIS WAY WHEN YOU USE ONLY HALF AT A TIME, YOU CAN ALWAYS ADD A LITTLE MORE. PEEL POTATOES THAT HAVE BEEN BAKING WHILE YOU WERE DOING ALL THE ABOVE, AND DICE INTO ½" SQUARES, THEN ADD TO POT OF CHOWDER. COOL CHOWDER FOR A FEW HOURS, THEN REHEAT AND SERVE. DO NOT EAT IT IMMEDIATELY BECAUSE THE COOLING AND SETTLEING IS WHAT MAKES IT BETTER. SPRINKLE IN PARSLEY. ENJOY!

*Notes from the chef

1. I don't like tomatoe chowder, so if you do, get another recipe.
2. If you are going out spooning after supper, omit garlic.
3. Five pounds of potatoes are going to be too much, so put in as many pieces as you like and save the rest for potato salad.
4. You will notice some green or black stuff when you are cutting the quahaugs, it is probably just what you are thinking it is, but put it in anyways.
5. If you have one 8 ounce cup with supper every night, it should last about 24 days.



BE SURE THAT AT NO TIME MUST YOU BOIL THE MILK AS CURDLING WILL OCCUR. IT WILL NOT SPOIL THE FLAVOR, JUST GIVES IT A YECHHY TEXTURE. THE BEST WAY TO REHEAT IS COOK IN A DOUBLE BOILER OF SIMMER VERY CAREFULLY AND SLOWLY. REMEMBER---DO NOT BOIL MILK---WARM VERY GENTLY.

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Harbingers

BY MAIZY PENROSE

*See her staggering through the dung.
She was dainty once and Young
~ James Thurber*

There’s been a lot of chit-chat lately about native plants, those being plants indigenous to this latitude and longitude, put here possibly by the hands of generous gods and capricious fates. Villagers are considering such plant material supposing that much of the crippling expense and labor of home gardening might be lessened and that the home gardener’s average life expectancy might eventually include time for lounging about enjoying their own property, sampling the luscious fruits thereof. An admirable quest, certainly a pursuit worth some thoughtful effort. Who doesn’t dream of songbirds all a’trill, glorious flutters of prismatic butterflies, the buzz of the honey bees. A four season extravaganza, rich biological diversity. An industrious host of pollinators all whirring about in sweet harmony, intent upon making this corner of a larger world a better place. Fortunately huge amounts of research has already been going on for decades and is now available for the clicking.

Perhaps best to proceed slowly, armed with a realistic grasp of self-knowledge. Should the gardener be the sort who likes “nothin’ touchin’ nothin’” than perhaps they and theirs will be better served with the “cultivated” plants hybridized to exact specifications and standardized expectations. We’re all familiar with the traditional decorative drill: Plant, plant, plant. Equal-distanced according to each owner’s personal discretion and physical strength, with a lavish topping of dyed-to-choice bark mulch, all neatly corralled into tidy rigidity by some form of fastidious (though usually short-lived, most always ineffective) edging. Just how much sprawling, billowing and raggedy floppings, all merrily self-seeding, and sending out of stealth runners, weaving an intricate tapestry (some might hear “tangle”) into one’s own personal ecosystem, is best left to individual thresholds.

Over time I have been given much space on these pages to devote to this not terribly modern evolution in gardening. Please. Feel free to wade through previous Harbingers@thebridge. Warwick.com for garden hints on the subject. Fortunately huge amounts of research has been going on for centuries and is now ours for the clicking. Easier, tho perhaps less amusing. I encourage you to sign on with the URI master gardener website and likewise the excellent RI Wild Plant Society @ riwps.org. You needn’t be a member, they’re very admirably generous with their information and resources. You can further expand into broader horizons at National Wildlife Federation @NWF.ORG/NW. Now you can choose your perfect milkweed from amongst hundreds of rude cousins

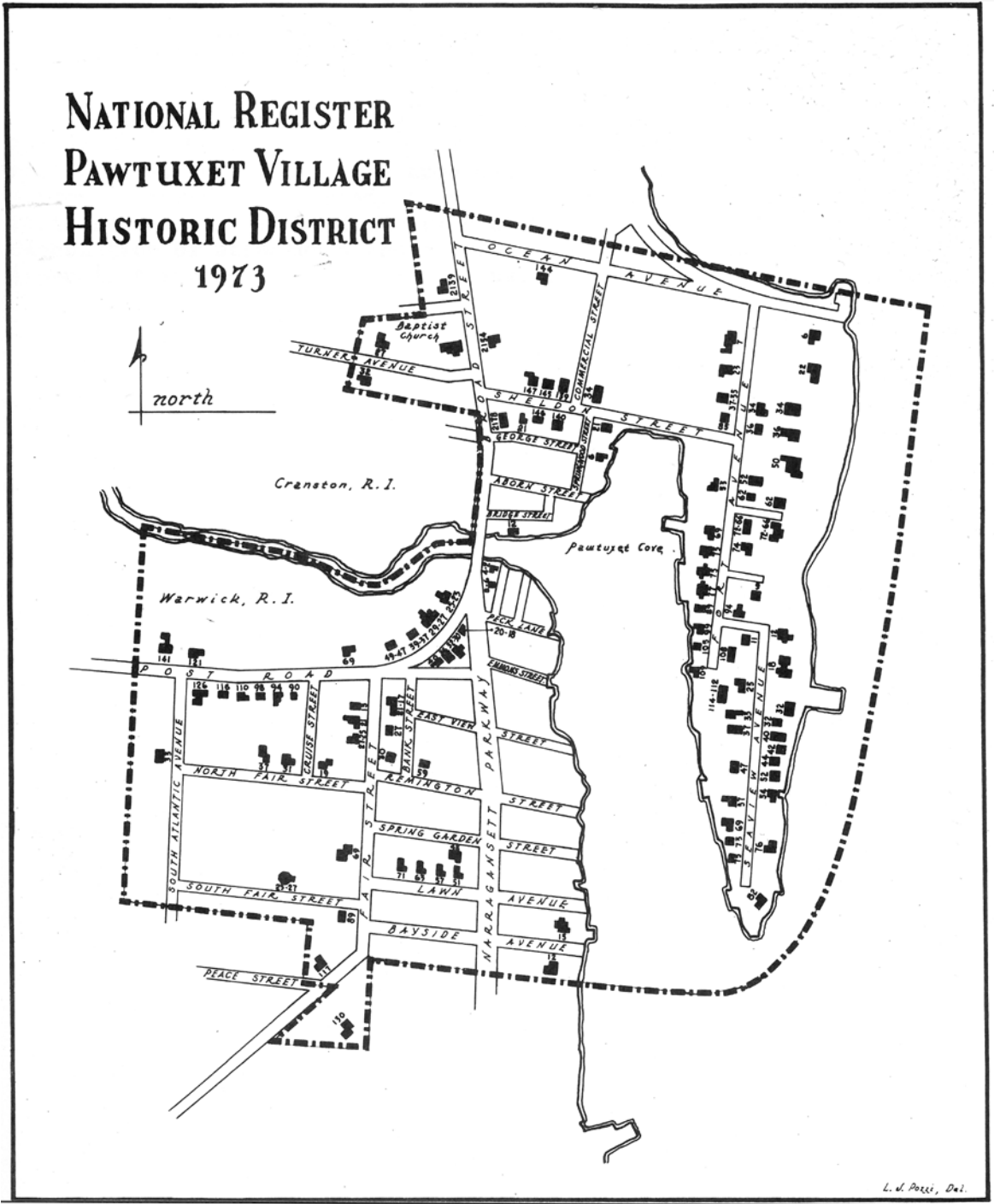
This year’s best Gift for the Gardener is the app called “PictureThis, plant identifier.” Perfect for your favorite gardener who, as it might happen, is your own sweet darling self. So handy next time an enthusiastic Native Plant Purveyor tempts you with an intriguing \$20 plant in a three inch pot. A quick, discreet snapshot tells the true tale. You might not be able to stifle surprised outrage when the touted specimen is identified as notoriously invasive, outlawed in four surrounding states including our own, all parts known to be deadly poisonous.

Don’t let it be you caught looking all hangdoggy, pretending like it’s the next guy when suddenly pernicious *Pseudosasa japonica* is on the loose, as an insidious bamboo outsmarts its flimsy boundaries and stalks its way forward and backward and sideways, which three consecutive owners have failed to eradicate. I admit to not being all knowing, or all larded up with hubris. I’ve had my moments of temporary insanity. I’ve made my mistakes and live with them and with those of others, though to my own credit and with much self-bloviation let me say I’ve had my fine moments. Why just last year I pretended to be a rabbit and assiduously girdled the outer bark off the trunk of a tenacious Tree of Heaven with a gas station steak knife. Yes! The dreaded Alianthus which had tolerated even the most ruthless, haphazard amateur hacking. Thrived! Season upon season. That noxious nuisance tree, the tree only a true angster such as one raised in Brooklyn can love. And it worked! And its gone for good this time for sure. Not a trace. Happy day.

During some of my slower moments I’m developing a series of strengthening movements of the spine. Sort of a “back yard salutation” yoga routine. I don’t know if anyone else is already making hay with this million dollar concept, but I ‘m finding my preliminary efforts beneficial and relaxing. Ah, Sweet mindfullness. Win/Win. Do the “downward facing dog,” while upending a tap-rooted thistle seedling. Deepen the stretch to “downward facing dog split” and weed a tidy row. Assume pigeon pose and wield a mean trowel. Engage in yoga mudra or a deep forward bend whilst sniffing the roses. Unfolding slowly, slowly, slowly, rising up one vertebrae at a time. Exalted Warrior Baby! ❖

Changing Landscape

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Fortunately, Pawtuxet also happens to have local historic district protection on the Warwick side, which means there are specific guidelines that need to be followed in the design of any new building. And while the PVA board applauds the opportunity for redevelopment of the Hunter's garage location, it is of great interest and concern that the ultimate design be in keeping with the integrity of the historic district.

We shared our concerns with the Albaco team—these concerns mirrored many of the comments heard from residents around the Post Road area as well as into the Cranston side of the Village.

- The key element to the development of or change to any structure within the historic district boundaries is that it should be sensitive to the historic character of the community. Design, scale and architectural style should be considered with regard to any new or altered structure.

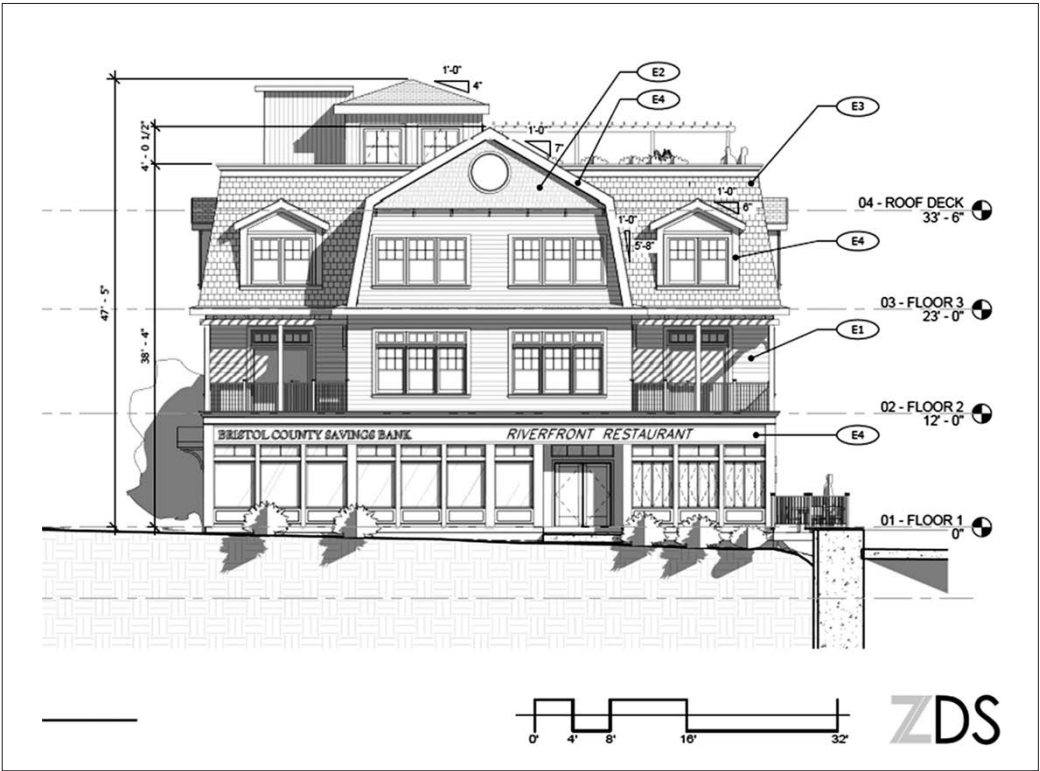
In the case of this proposed building, we take issue with the scale and height of the structure as it would dominate the homes and other buildings in the area. The proposed building, with a height of almost four stories, would overwhelm the space and block one of the finest vistas within the district.

It also would overpower the river as this is in a prominent area of the waterfront and right next to the falls,

dramatically changing the view of this important focal point of the Village.

- Traffic and parking are already problems in the Village, and the addition of an extensive business/residential building with its only egress onto a narrow one-way street gives great concern. The proposed parking area of approximately 28 spaces would have to include two spaces for each of the eight apartments, as well as parking for staff, leaving virtually no spaces for customers. The proposal would significantly increase noise, traffic and parking, and have serious environmental impacts close to the waterfront.

As noted in the Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission Pawtuxet Village



What's the Difference Between National and Local Historic Districts?

The basic difference between the two (and you can have both at once) is that structures in a National Register Historic District are only protected from the use of federal funds for projects that could destroy or alter the area.

Local historic districts provide protection to the exteriors of properties; changes must be evaluated and approved by the local historic district commission before being made. The commission uses national guidelines and standards in evaluating properties and offering guidance. It's important to note only the exterior of a property is monitored. Interiors and landscaping and color schemes are not included in historic district reviews.

Historic Resources Survey (1973): "Fourteen architecturally noteworthy houses dating before the American Revolution line Post Road leading south from the bridge."

The Survey states: "...The lower section of the village includes a very strong node at the intersection of Post Road and Narragansett Parkway...Important building groupings in Pawtuxet Village include number 23 through 49 Post Road, number 30 through number 40 Post Road...The above features represent elements of townscape that contribute in a positive manner to the visual and environmental character of Pawtuxet Village. They should be recognized and protected..."

There are several reviews with state and city agencies to be taken by developers before any design or permits are approved; these include the City Council for zoning, the state Department of Environmental Management, the Coastal Resources Management Council, as well as the Warwick Historic District Commission. Albaco will be appearing again before the Warwick Historic District Commission at its May meeting; commissioners made several suggestions at earlier meetings and hope they will be incorporated in a revised proposal.

At the end of the presentation, it was asked if there would be a revised draft of the building provided for public review, but to date, none has been shared. It is our desire that something more suitable be designed for the space in terms of style, scale and usage. Improvement to this area of the village is not unwanted; the site has long been an underutilized and unattractive area with great potential. But we don't wish to see the new development overshadow the importance of the space it sits in. It should contribute in a positive way to the community overall.

Pawtuxet Village has improved over time, but we are the stewards of its history and that includes not just the importance of what has transpired here historically, but also the built environment that gives it the character and importance that makes us unique. We remain watchful and hopeful for a good outcome in the next phase. ♦

TOP OF PAGE: Boundaries of the National Historic District of Pawtuxet Village. Source: Application for review to Secretary of Interior, 1973. LEFT: East elevation of proposed structure at 9 Post Road. Source: ZDS presentation.



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Governor Joseph Wanton and the Coup That Deposed Him



By DR. JOHN CONCANNON,
HISTORIAN, GASPEE DAYS COMMITTEE

While we reflect on the attack on Congress this past January of 2021, it is interesting to note that Rhode Island had its share of political upheavals as well. The Dorr Rebellion of 1841-1842 comes first to mind, but there were others, and here we describe the coup that deposed Governor Wanton in 1775.

Joseph Wanton was born on August 15, 1705, the son of a wealthy merchant, William Wanton, who himself served as Governor of Rhode Island. Joseph Wanton graduated from Harvard and then, following his family interests, became a successful merchant of the Newport area.

His family connections assisted in his rapid rise in the public service ranks, and he was elected Deputy Governor of Rhode Island in 1764, and by May of 1769 Joseph Wanton ascended to the Governorship, at that time located in the capital city of Newport. Wanton was not above nepotism and he quickly appointed his son, William, to the patronage job of 'naval officer' in charge of the customs record keeping for the colony.

During his term in office, Governor Wanton encountered the whole of the Gaspee Affair of 1772-1773. Deputy Governor Darius Sessions had petitioned him to intercede on behalf of local sea merchants who were being continuously harassed by the HMS *Gaspee* commanded by Lt. William Dudingston. Wanton wrote to Dudingston demanding to see his commission but Dudingston refused and referred the matter to his superior, Admiral Montagu, the commander of the Royal Navy forces in America. This led to a series of insulting and threatening letters between Wanton and Montagu over their respective authorities within the colony. Montagu at one point threatened to "hang as pirates" any citizens of Newport attempting to interfere with the mission of the *Gaspee*.

When in June of 1772, the *Gaspee* was attacked and burned in waters just south of Pawtuxet Village, Wanton took certain measures to protect the Colony of Rhode Island from the impending wrath of the British government. By promptly offering a reward for information regarding those that attacked the *Gaspee*, he demonstrated that the colony treated the matter seriously, at least on paper. By demanding that he be appointed Chairman of the Commission of Inquiry into the burning of the *Gaspee* Wanton positioned himself to be able to limit its effectiveness by putting his spin on any evidence presented, and by assuring no members of the *Gaspee* crew were in court on the same days as any possible perpetrators they might recognize. Wanton appears to have conspired with his Deputy Governor, Darius Sessions, to provide creative counter-testimony to the actual facts of the case. Governor Wanton was able to create yet more disruption for the Gaspee Commission by revealing to the General Assembly the contents of a letter written to him by the British Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lord Dartmouth, discussing the Ministry's intent to have the perpetrators of the *Gaspee* attack tried in London and publicly executed for 'high treason'. But ultimately no perpetrators ever were identified by the Commission by 1773; it seems 'nobody knew nuttin'. Joseph Wanton may have been portrayed as a loyalist in most historical accounts, but if actions speak louder than words, perhaps he was not, at least not during the Gaspee Affair.

Joseph Wanton was annually re-elected Governor through May of 1775. By this time, however, the mood of the General Assembly had changed to favor independence from the mother country and in 1775 the Assembly passed a resolution calling for an 'army of observation' to be raised "to repel any insult or violence that may be offered to the inhabitants; and also, if it be necessary, for the safety and preservation of any of the colonies, to march out of this colony and join and cooperate with the force of the neighboring colonies." Wanton feared such moves as insurrection, and he was strongly opposed to the resolution, which was ultimately passed over his objections.

Wanton refused to take the oath of office that included his acting as the figurehead commander of this 'army'. The General Assembly retaliated by passing an act preventing him from performing any of his other duties as Governor. The office was declared vacant for the time being and he was deposed as Governor in November 1775, to be replaced by Deputy Governor Nicholas Cooke. As Elmer Cornell stated "Those bent on revolution are not tolerant of dissent, and Wanton paid the price."

At one time, he fled to the safety of the HMS *Rose* anchored in Newport harbor, from where he refused to recognize the legitimacy of the coup that deposed him as Governor. While the British occupied the city in December 1776 through October 1779, Wanton continued to live in Newport, albeit in relative obscurity. He did have success, though, in marrying off some of his daughters to various Britishers. Governor Joseph Wanton died in Newport in 1780 and is buried in the Clifton Burying Ground.

For more information about the Gaspee Days Committee please visit Gaspee.com. For more information about the Gaspee Affair please visit the Gaspee Virtual Archives at Gaspee.org. ♦



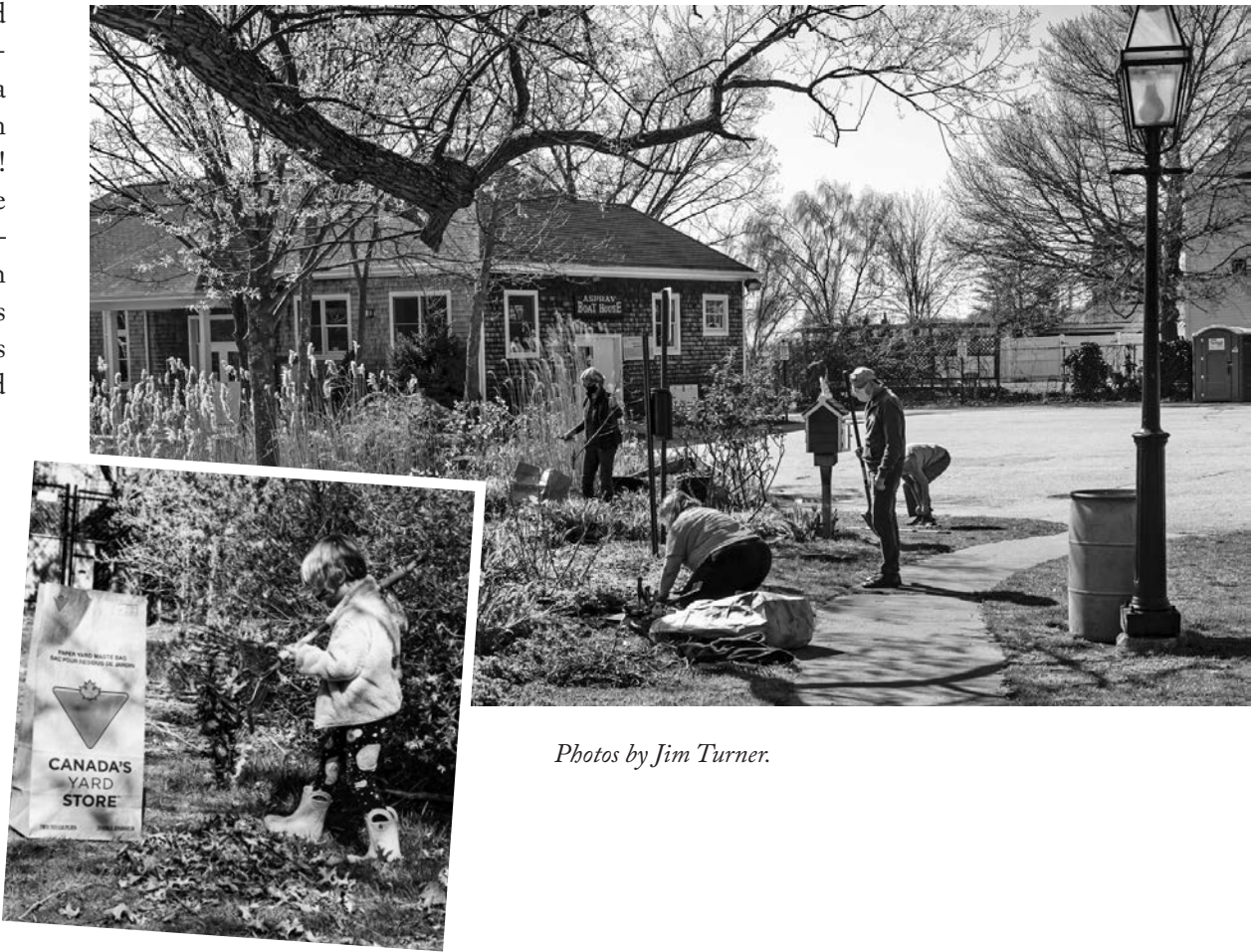
Governor Joseph Wanton. Artist unknown. Courtesy, Redwood Library, Newport

Pawtuxet Park Earth Day Cleanup

Thank you to all the volunteers who showed up for our annual clean up of Pawtuxet Park as part of “Earth Day.” It was a beautiful Saturday morning and the PVA Garden Group, and most importantly the park, thanks you!

It is much improved after a long winter. We now have a clean fence along Emmons Avenue—to the point we can keep it clean now with mulch and possible new plantings. The brick walkway is cleaned and edged nicely. The waterfront area is cleaned with new border (actually old, as it had been buried). The boat area was miraculously made to look like the garden it once was from years ago. The Bird Bath Garden near the playground is cleaned and readied for spring planting and the shade garden is looking manicured. Grass areas were picked up and shrubs pruned. Pawtuxet Park is ready for spring and summer now, thanks to your efforts!

If anyone is interested in helping in Pawtuxet Park or on the bridge—feel free to contact Mark Howard at mhoward1102@gmail.com. ♦



Photos by Jim Turner.

Lessons From Squirrels



By Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban

The 2020–2021 pandemic drove us all indoors to work, study, or just kill time online, but like all crises it provided opportunities to read, reflect, connect or reconnect with old friends, family and pleasant pastimes.

My own work as a part-time professor, writer of books and papers, gardener and beekeeper kept me busy enough, but the slower pace of life allowed time for observing nature more closely. My choice was a birdfeeder outside of my office window on Fort Avenue, close to the house. Of course, I know we have



Image from Pixabay

lots of squirrels in the neighborhood, but I was not aware of their great acrobatic feats until I observed their persistent, relentless pursuit of the bird seed intended for the variety of birds who visited the feeder: sparrows, chickadees, juncos, doves, crows, starlings, downy woodpeckers, and the occasional bunnies. The bird feeder hung about five feet above the ground and I wondered why the daily morning fill of seed was gone by mid-afternoon. I wondered how little birds could consume so much seed without much spill on the ground, but soon I saw that the squirrels were vacuuming the spilled seed. OK, so I accepted birds at the feeder, squirrels cleaning up the spill. That was until I began to observe the acrobatic squirrels climbing the poles from which the feeder was

hung, walking tight-rope style across the rope holding the feeder, and hanging by a claw devouring the bird seed. Empty soda bottles were strung on either side of the feeder to discourage the ravenous squirrels, the line was greased, elevated even higher but the relentless squirrels overcame every obstacle we presented.

Considering this less of a defeat for the humans and more a triumph of the tenacity and skill of the squirrels, we declared their victory, and with considerable admiration I composed the following “Lessons from Squirrels” in the same spirit as the once popular “Lessons from Geese” that showed what collective effort and taking turns in leadership can accomplish. It turns out that squirrels may be tenacious but less generous and compassionate than humans have proven to be in this year like no other during the years of COVID 19–21.

Lessons From Squirrels:

1. Never, never give up the quest to get to the feeder.
2. Use all manner of acrobatics, from hanging by a single paw, to walking the tightrope of the clothesline as the suet cake is moved from one end to the other.
3. Never, never give up, despite any obstacle, such as lengthening the hanging suet feeders, or creating an obstacle course of wooden and plastic clothespins to get to the feeder.
4. Never, never give up your right to all of the birdseed once you have gotten to the seed feeder.
5. Never share with a fellow squirrel.
6. Be a bully and fight off your squirrel competition, on the ground, or in the air, or on a clothesline, and chase them off around the yard.
7. Disregard the smaller birds who accommodate your bullying by giving you room to gorge yourselves while they occupy the outer circle of bird seed, placed compassionately by humans on the ground for leveling this ‘playing field’.
8. Practice limited diplomacy as you allow the bigger bully birds—the crows, bluejays—to forage at a safe distance, and when they have had their fill, the grateful smaller birds get the few remaining seeds.
9. Never, never give up the quest, the (im)possible dream to rule the backyard feeder. ♦

Show Time and Pawtuxet Neck



By JANET HUDON HARTMAN

Pawtuxet Neck has long been the tony section of the Village, with densely packed architectural gems lived in by all manner of notables, rogues, and innovative professionals who have left their marks on our Rhode Island landscape.

Anyone who has enjoyed walking the neck will have noted the brick Colonial Revival home set back from the road at the corner of Ocean and Fort Avenues, surrounded by a white fence with brick piers and landscaped grounds screening a view of the house. The upper bay provides spectacular open space for the back yard of this 1921 manse which was bought by Alton Charles Emery in 1927.

At that time vaudeville was at its height, Emery was in his prime, and life was moving quickly for Alton, his brother Burton, and a business associate, Edward Fay—who had also lived on Pawtuxet Neck.

Fay owned the house at the tip of the neck which predates the present structure. Fay, a violinist, occupied the house with his wife and brothers, all musicians and business partners.

Alton C. and Burton A. Emery were twin brothers born in 1885 who came from modest beginnings, but Alton managed to move from pushing a fruit cart, to working in a pool and billiard parlor in 1910, to becoming a theater proprietor in 1920. By 1930 he operated an amusement business. Where did the Emery brothers get the money to do all this so quickly? To answer this question, the Emery descendants did some digging and filling in the blanks.

Alton and Burton were the sons of Willis Emery, the youngest in his family. Enoch Emery, his older brother, was the tenth out of 14 children. Several men in the family worked on ships and boats out of Gloucester Harbor, Massachusetts. Enoch wanted more. He started as a cabin boy on a ship that landed in Russia. He worked at developing a chain of grocery stores in Russia, then Siberia. He branched out to importing American machinery. On a passport dated 1875 (when he was 24 years old) his occupation was given as “Merchant.” In 1907, he listed himself as a “Financier.” Enoch’s last months were mysterious, and he died in Moscow on June 6, 1911 at the age of 59. The New York Times carried a story of A YANKEE FORTUNE MADE IN RUSSIA. His estate was valued at \$763,418 (about \$20-21 million in today’s dollars). He left all his money and investments

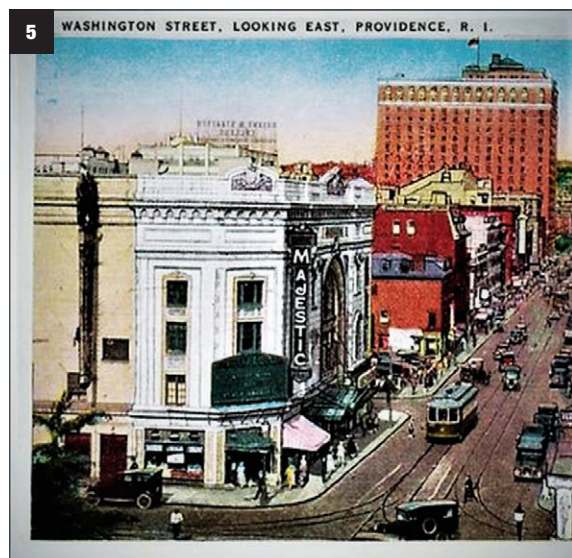
to his 11 nieces and nephews, Alton and Burton each receiving \$21,800 (\$600,000 in today’s dollars).

The Emery brothers wasted no time in buying real estate and developing their own considerable business holdings. Alton and Burton were vaudevillians who wanted to build the greatest theatre that Providence had ever seen. They had already built the Emery Theatre (later called Carlton Theatre) on Mathewson Street in 1914. They commissioned the architectural firm of Walker and Son to design their new theatre, which bore the name “Emery’s Majestic” at the top of its magnificent entrance. White terra-cotta with accents in green and gold were used on the façade. It opened in 1917 at a cost of about \$500,000 with vaudeville acts and Ethel Barrymore in “The White Raven” on the screen.

Edward Fay managed this premiere first-run movie theater for the Emerys which could seat 3,000 theater goers. The business relationships were evident in the City Directory where Alton C.

Emery was listed as President of Alice Building Inc. and Emery Bros Amusements, with Burton Emery, Treasurer; and Edward Fay was Secretary-treasurer of both the Majestic and Carlton Theaters.

It 1926 Fay bought the Majestic, Rialto, Modern, Capitol, and Carlton Theaters from the Emery Brothers. He had been watching the progress of synchronizing a soundtrack with “silent movies.”



(1) Alton Emery; (2) Edward Fay; (3) Edward Fay's home at the end of Pawtuxet Neck, prior to the hurricane; (4) Advertisement for shows at Emery Theatre; and (5) The Majestic Theatre in Providence.

He paid Warner Brothers \$25,000 for the exclusive rights for Vitaphone in Providence. He paid Western Electric \$20,000 to string nine miles of wire for sound in the Majestic, making this the first permanent installation of talking movie equipment. The Majestic became the first American Theater to show movies with sound, starting Christmas morning, 1926. After that if you wanted to see the “talkies,” you stood in line at the Majestic.

Fay may have financed his venture with the sale of the Pawtuxet Neck property in 1923 when he sold it to Charles Brown who was the owner of the Narragansett Hotel and the old Providence Opera House.



Edward Fay spent his life involved in the entertainment industry, first as a violinist, then a conductor, and then a motion picture theater owner. He owned at least six different theaters between 1928 and 1971. At one time the *Providence Journal* called him “The Dean of R.I. Entertainment.” In 1958 the State Legislature named the Providence River Bridge after him.

The Emery Brothers increased their real estate holdings which included two large houses on Norwood Avenue in Edgewood (currently a B&B), two houses on Ocean Avenue just before the Rhode Island Yacht Club, a house on Rosewood Street, as well as the Hope Theater in Providence, among others.

Sadly, Alton died unexpectedly of a heart attack at 55 years old in 1941, leaving his second wife Elsie with six children between the ages of two and ten



years old. (He had also fathered three other older children). Among those children were sons named Alton and Burton. In fact, there were two more Alton/Burton sets in subsequent generations. One family’s Alton/Burton sons were also twins.

Alton’s wife Elsie continued living in their home on Fort Avenue, raising her young family. One daughter,

Barbara, married our well-loved market owner, Bill Lindsay, co-owner of Lindsay’s Market for years. They had four children, but only Robert still lives in the area. He talked about having good times in the big house, “with all the bedrooms and the number system in the kitchen used to summon servants.” He said his grandmother had maids and other help to care for the children and the house, which seemed like a mansion to Robert as a youngster.

Alton’s widow Elsie remained in the beautiful Colonial Revival at the corner of Ocean and Fort Avenue until her death in 1974.

Following Alton’s death, Alton Jr. was sent to Wilbraham Academy in Wilbraham, Massachusetts and then to Brown University. He was obviously groomed to take over the family business, which he managed until his death in 2019.

The Majestic, along with theaters in cities across the country, went into decline in the 1950s and ’60s with the advent of television and the new suburban theaters boasting big parking lots.

The Majestic was eventually sold to the Trinity Repertory Company and closed as a movie theater in 1971. A new generation of theater goers warranted an innovative designer. Adrian Hall was the Artistic Director at Trinity when Eugene Lee was brought in as Set Designer. While the beautiful façade and several interior features remain, Lee drastically changed the interior of the theater. The ornate interior was gutted to accommodate two smaller performance spaces with black walls. The set designs were the most exciting and imaginative spaces ever experienced by the performers and audiences. Along with his work at Trinity, Lee became a vital designer with Saturday Night Live preparing its premier in 1975. He has continued with them for 35 years.

Eugene Lee, with his round glasses, topsiders and bow tie once said in an interview, “I always wanted to live on a boat—finally found a very beautiful boat and when Saturday Night Live started, I was living on a boat in Pawtuxet Cove. It was great.” He and his first wife, Franne Lee (a costume designer) would work on Saturday Night Live in New York City during the week and come back to the boat in Pawtuxet on the weekend.

The Aspray Boat Yard was for sale about that time, and it was the Lees who influenced Bill Lindsay

in the market and then PVA to convince the Mayor of Warwick to purchase the boat yard, create a park, and give the public access to the waterfront. Brilliant! We needed that kind of innovative and aggressive thinking.

Eugene and Franne Lee won Tony Awards for their work on *Candide* and *Sweeney Todd* on Broadway, and Eugene received an Emmy for his work on *Saturday Night Live*. He was inducted into the American Theater Hall of Fame and has been referred to as a “myth and a legend.” He still works in New York City and lives in Rhode Island.

Over the years Trinity Repertory Company’s building, renamed the Lederer Theater (the original “Emery Majestic” name remains at the top of the



(6) Eugene Lee and Adrian Hall, creators of Lederer Theatre; (7) Emery's Majestic in Providence, now Lederer Theatre; and (8) the Emery home at Ocean Avenue and Fort Avenue.

front of the building), has needed numerous improvements and renovations. DBVW Architects recently “designed all improvements to meet current code requirements while respecting the historic character of one of Providence’s most significant historic theater buildings.”

One of the Senior Principals of this architectural firm is Martha Werenfels, a dedicated preservation architect. And where does Martha Werenfels make her home? On Pawtuxet Neck—of course!

Thank you to Bob Lindsay, his cousin Laura, and all the Emery descendants for digging through old papers and photographs and sharing their family’s stories. ♦

A Walk in April

Village photos by
Kimberly Sorrell



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The Greek Revival in Pawtuxet



By GINNY LESLIE

From 1820 to 1860, a new architectural style flourished in Rhode Island and the rest of the eastern states. Inspired by Greek temples which were “re-discovered” in the late eighteenth century, this new style reflects the grandeur and aesthetic appeal of classic Greek architecture of around the fifth century B.C. and featured several significant changes from colonial and federal style buildings.

The style was so popular, with so many facades resembling Greek temples on banks, churches, town halls and houses, that it was considered by some to be the national style. In Providence, outstanding examples include the Arcade, the Providence Athenaeum, Beneficent Congregational Church, Brown University’s Manning Hall and several houses on Benefit Street.

“With British influence waning considerably after the War of 1812, the style was fundamentally an expression of America’s triumphant sense of destiny and the sense that our newly formed nation was the spiritual descendant of Greece, birthplace of democracy.”
~ *Wentworth Architecture and Building website*

Characteristics of Greek Revival Structures

A major change from earlier styles was the re-orientation of the building so that the gable end faced the street. This mimicked Greek temples but in many cases was also a good response to decreasing lot sizes in growing villages. The street lengths of Pawtuxet’s federal houses range from 35 to 40 feet, but the front facades of our Greek Revival homes are only 18 to 24 feet.

Since the front façade is smaller, there are typically only two windows and a door to one side on the ground floor. The two second floor windows are smaller than those on the first. Another change from earlier homes is a lower pitched roof.

Greek Revival homes in New England were almost all made of wood and painted white to resemble the white marble or stone of Greek temples. Most trim was also painted white with the exception of the front door and shutters, which were usually painted dark green. The window sash of the six-over-six paned windows was often painted black. Other exterior paint colors were gray, pale blue-gray, tan, yellow and off-white.

Among the most distinguishing design features are columns and pilasters (flattened columns), mostly of the simple Doric order (there are very few American Greek Revival homes with the more elaborate Ionic or Corinthian columns). The corners of the buildings feature columns with recessed

panels, more elaborate than the simple flat corner boards of colonial and federal structures. The large triangular pediment on the front is well defined and often decorated.

Elaborate door surrounds are another feature of this style. Four of the five Pawtuxet houses have small paned sidelights and three have a narrow transom above the door. The one home without sidelights at the front door does have wood paneling where the lights may have been originally. These are framed by heavy wide trim, sometimes recessed for a three-dimensional look. The Pawtuxet homes also all have recessed doorways, although many Greek Revivals elsewhere (including on Benefit Street) have porticoes, small projecting porches supported by columns.

Chimneys are smaller than those of earlier houses, since by 1820, stoves were used more than fireplaces for heat. Colonial homes had center chimneys and federal homes had the chimneys located on side walls, but Greek Revivals have interior chimneys that are somewhat off-center.

The Greek Revival in Pawtuxet

Pawtuxet has just six classic Greek Revival structures: five homes (one in Warwick and four in Cranston) and the exhibition hall of the Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry on Fair Street.

Several other buildings in the village that were built in the period of 1820-1860 are not typical Greek Revival temple-front structures but do have some features of the style. The Pawtuxet Rangers’ Armory (1843) is oriented with its gable end facing the front. The Slocum Homestead at 89 Fair Street (ca. 1840) has paneled pilasters at the corners and entrance and sidelights at the front door.

WARWICK:

(A) 69 Fair Street - Exhibition Hall of The Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry, 1820

This fine structure, which faces South Fair Street, is unfortunately dwarfed by a major addition of Italianate design that was constructed around 1848.



The original handsome Greek Revival structure was built by William Budlong, a local craftsman. It measures 24 feet by 30 feet and it appears to have been remodeled over time, since the entry has no Greek Revival features like sidelights or columns and has a Victorian era door hood.

For years, the Society held immensely popular state fairs at the site, bounded by Fair, North Fair and South Fair Streets. An 1830 newspaper reported that 5,000 people attended the two-day annual event which is a staggering crowd since the population of the City of Providence in that year was under 12,000. In the months when the fair was not underway, the building was used as a community center.

(B) 42 Fair Street - The John William Arnold house (or it may be the Job Manchester or William C. Rhodes house), date uncertain

This home was identified in the R.I. Historical Preservation Commission’s 1981 Report on Warwick as the city’s “finest surviving Greek Revival



structure.” The report describes it as a “side-hall plan Greek Revival dwelling set end to the street, with the gable treated as a pediment.”

The property, which until the late 1800s extended all the way from Fair Street to Pawtuxet Cove, was owned by members of several old Pawtuxet families over the years. Remington Sheldon owned the land prior to 1831, when Stephen Smith purchased it from Sheldon’s estate. He sold it to Job Manchester in 1835 who in turn sold it to the Pawtuxet Bank in 1846. John William Arnold, a carpenter, bought the property in 1851 and held it for 20 years. He may well have been the builder.

Arnold sold the property to William B. Rhodes (not William C. Rhodes, who built two of the Greek Revival homes in Cranston) in 1871 and it stayed in the Rhodes family for a century (first William B. and his wife Eleanor and then their son Frank and his wife Loretta). There is a metal plaque on the front door that reads “RHODES”, a testimony to the family’s long residence here.

The Preservation Report indicates the building was erected circa 1840, when it was owned by Job Manchester. A more recent owner, who bought the house from the Rhodes family in 1971, believes the house to be earlier than that, perhaps as early as 1820.

The house measures 24 feet by 31 feet, with an early addition in the rear. It has clapboards all around and is the only one of the five houses to have shutters on the front façade.

continued on next page

CRANSTON

(C) 21 Springwood Street - original owner and date unknown

This home, on the corner of Sheldon and Springwood Streets, has a plaque with a date of 1803, but that is unlikely given the clear Greek Revival elements. The recessed panel pilasters at the corners are gone, possibly removed when the porch was added, and the house now has shingles rather than the original clapboards. But its orientation to the street, the window and door placement, the original six-over-six window pattern, and the recessed doorway with wide side surrounds with recessed panels reveal its origins. It is likely that there were once sidelights and a transom surrounding the front door. The house now measures 23 feet by 40 feet.

(D) 74 Fort Avenue - circa 1840, owned by V. Chase in 1870

Originally the smallest (18 feet by 21 feet) of Pawtuxet’s Greek Revivals, this house has had additions over the years. The front façade retains its clapboards while the side walls are shingled. The front door is recessed and has sidelights and the windows have the original six-over-six pattern.

In 1992, the *Cranston Herald* ran an article with the headline “Fort Avenue historic house stirs neighborhood controversy.” A Warwick couple wanted to buy the house, demolish it and replace it with a new structure. They claimed the house was in serious disrepair and the cost to restore it was prohibitive. The Cranston Zoning Board granted the request for demolition.

But concerned neighbors came to the rescue! Dr. Richard Lobban, who lives in an old house on Fort Avenue, stated “We feel it’s an historical and irreplaceable treasure. We would hate to see it go and replaced by a structure of no historic context.” The state Historic Preservation Commission wrote that the “historic property contributes to the significance of the Pawtuxet Village Historic District and that it should be preserved.”

Fortunately, preservationists were successful in saving this fine example of Greek Revival architecture. Although smaller and less grand than many later homes on Pawtuxet Neck, it is no doubt an important part of the village’s long history.



(E) 144 Ocean Avenue - built by William C. Rhodes in 1857, owned by B. Smith in 1870

This is one of two similar houses constructed by William C. Rhodes, a prominent Pawtuxet builder in the mid-nineteenth century. It measures 22 by 33 feet and it fortunately retains its original features including the recessed doorway with sidelights and transom, corner pilasters, windows with six-over-six sash and clapboards all around. The current color scheme accents the fine architectural details.

(F) 143 Sheldon Street, - built by William C. Rhodes in 1857 and owned by him in 1870

This is the mate of the house on Ocean Avenue, although not exactly. It is 23 by 28 feet, a little wider in the front but five feet shorter on the sides. It, too, retains most of its original features and the handsome paint colors add to the home’s appeal.

Pawtuxet Village is fortunate to have these excellent examples of Greek Revival architecture, which being somewhat scattered around the Village, are not as noticeable as the earlier colonial and federal homes here. We should also appreciate the efforts of the homeowners who take on the labor of love known as owning an old house and maintain and preserve these pieces of American history so they’ll be around for many more years to come. ❖

Article photos by Jim Turner.

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We know how hard it can be to make good decisions both economically and for retaining the character of your building when it comes to doors, windows, porches, railings, moldings, etc.

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WEB: www.pawtuxetvillageassociation.org/preservation-resources.html
EMAIL: pawtuxetvillageassociation@gmail.com

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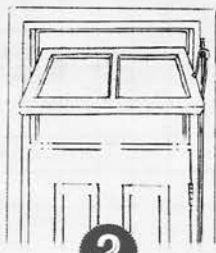
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NAME THOSE ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS

How well-versed are you in old-house lingo? Find out here.



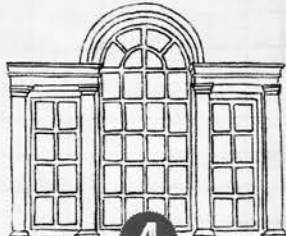
- A. Plinth
- B. Cornice
- C. Pediment
- D. Keystone



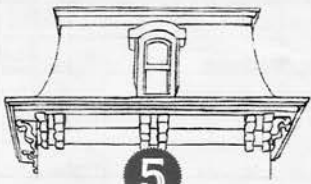
- A. Casement
- B. Transom
- C. Dormer
- D. Tilt-top



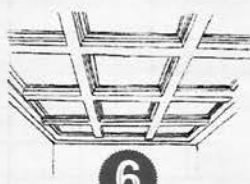
- A. Lacework
- B. Lattice
- C. Dentil
- D. Bargeboard



- A. Jalousie window
- B. Palladian
- C. Lucarne
- D. Triple-hung



- A. Cupola
- B. Gambrel
- C. Tower
- D. Mansard



- A. Coffer
- B. Wainscoting
- C. Shiplap
- D. Dado



- A. Scrollwork
- B. Tracery
- C. Guipure
- D. Cresting



- A. Fanlight
- B. Ogee
- C. Medallion
- D. Oculus

ANSWER KEY:

1. C. Pediment. In a Greek temple, the pediment is the large, triangular portion supported by columns. In American homes, this element is usually found above a front door and comes in a variety of shapes, among them, triangular, elliptical, and "swan's neck."

2. B. Transom. A transom is a window located above a door. One of the most clever design elements of all time, transoms serve not only to bring more light into interior spaces but also open, allowing air circulation.

3. D. Bargeboard. Also called *vergeboard*, this decorative wood trim, which was especially popular in Victorian times, is placed along the gabled roofline of a home.

4. B. Palladian. When an arched window is flanked by two narrower rectangular windows, the entire composition is known as a Palladian window. The feature is based on the principles of Italian Renaissance architects, among them Andrea Palladio, for whom the window is named.

5. D. Mansard. Named after François Mansart, a French architect of the Baroque period, the mansard roof has four sloped sides and dormer windows. It is a defining feature of the Second Empire style of architecture and the 1850s rebuilding of Paris.

6. A. Coffers. The most familiar examples of these decorative, recessed ceiling panels can be found in Craftsman-style homes, where they appear as a grid of wooden beams that create indentations.

7. D. Cresting. Typically made of iron or copper and often manufactured in sheets, cresting is a playful decoration that Victorians enjoyed placing along the top of a roof to give it a lace-like edge.

8. A. Fanlight. These divided, semicircular windows first graced the front doorways of turn-of-the-19th-century Federal-style homes. They came back in vogue 100 years later, when the country was nostalgically building many homes in the popular Colonial Revival style.

The Little White Church on the Hill

By Stephen Klevas

All those working or residing in Pawtuxet Village may not be familiar with the name Pawtuxet Baptist Church but if you refer to it as "The little white church on the hill," you'll instantly see a look of recognition register on their faces. The church has been in continuous use since the beginning of the 19th century, and many a family has seen generation after generation pass through its doors.

Even in this historic moment of turmoil due to COVID when the church was forced temporarily to close its doors, the congregation remained united by emails and the telephone. Currently the church has been able to resume active Sunday services. There is even a bible study group on Wednesday evenings at 7:00, facilitated by a former educator who has served on the diaconate for some twenty-plus years. In times of personal crisis, many have been helped financially through a special fund set up by the board of deacons for this purpose. Spiritual guidance through counseling has given hope to many who have sought it. At one time the church even sponsored a free medical clinic in the building's basement, run by a past member who was a physician. The congrega-



Photo by Tom Backman.

tion has supported these programs with fund-raising activities such as rummage sales, Christmas bazaars, May breakfasts, pasta dinners and other family events, like a petting zoo and pony rides. Members of the Cranston fire department even donated their time and graced the parking lot with a functional fire truck that allowed children and adults alike to participate in a fire safety drill. This helped dispel some of the fear that folks experience when they see fire trucks. The fire fighters also answered questions, and passed out literature, fire chief hats, and coloring books on fire safety.

For years the Church has enjoyed participating in the Gaspee Days Parade. If you were on onlooker at the parade perhaps you'll remember a large congenial man with a booming voice and a guitar atop a float serenading the crowd with strains of Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the U. S. A."

Pawtuxet Baptist Church is open to all who seek a warm and friendly environment in which to hear the gospel preached. The church can perhaps bring some solace to a weary mind, encourage heavy hearts and rekindle that spiritual soul. ♦

“When the Wind Blows from the South...”



In the Pawtuxet area in the late 1630s, Narragansett men taught the English settlers from the old world the new world agriculture mode for farming and they also taught them how to fish. Fish were in great abundance in Narragansett Bay, especially during the spring season of spawning.

Almost 180 years later, John Brown Francis in 1812 drew up an agreement with two fishermen from Pawtuxet, Abel Slocum and Rhodes Waterman, to “seine menhaden and to land them securely on the shore”. These were “for the sole use and benefit of Abby Brown Francis”. Abby was John Brown Francis’s mother and the owner of Spring Green Farm, a 660-acre estate which she inherited from her father, Providence merchant John Brown.

The fish were used to enrich the soil and were planted with a flint corn known as Indian corn. The seined fish were added to barnyard manure, creating a fish pie, and then were allowed to rot. This mixture was spread on a planted field or an apple orchard.



Warnings of Overfishing

The bay's great abundance of fish did not last long. In 1870, the State of Rhode Island issued a report to address the alarming decrease of fish in Rhode Island waters entitled "Fisheries of Narragansett Bay". This report sounded an alarm about several species that were "greatly reduced or practically annihilated, in certain places, by improper fishing." These species included tautog, sea perch, flounder, striped bass and scup.

A Memorable Fishing Trip

In the late 1930s/1940s, as spring approached, my father, Francis Hail Brown would say “When the apple leaves are as large as a mouse’s ear, tautog will enter the upper bay.” Another harbinger of fish running was the blooming of the shadblow trees with their white flowers.

"When do we go fishing?" I asked my father. He answered "when the wind blows from the south, it blows the bait in the fish's mouth."


Father had purchased a 1946 Evinrude motor and he mounted it on the farm's long narrow sailing skiff constructed at the farm. The boat had a center board keel that could be raised or lowered. On a lovely Saturday in May with no wind, all was prepared for tautog fishing at Conimicut Point Lighthouse, a sparkplug design structure situated at the tip of Conimicut Point, Warwick.


Two pairs of oars were on board, as well as crabs and worms for bait. Within 20 minutes we were at the light, with Dad maneuvering the boat toward a fishing crevice. A light wind from the northwest had sprung up, and then it became a gale, increasing steadily and blowing the 12-foot skiff very quickly into the open bay towards Prudence Island.

He attempted to start the engine, but it was futile. "Boys, take the oars and start rowing!" But little headway was made as we went ahead three feet and back two, with the wind increasing. He relieved my brother at the oars. After an hour, we rounded the Conimicut sandbar and slowly headed for Greene's Island.

Fifteen minutes later we arrived at the Point House, a bar and dinner hall specializing in chicken dinners. Exhausted, we rested on the sandy beach. Once rested, I crept up to the cellar window and peered in. My eyes caught the cellar full of live chickens—Sunday dinners with very fresh chicken! (Note: The Point House was completely destroyed in the hurricane of August 31, 1938.)

After another half hour of rowing, we were at the Spring Green dock. It was a fine escapade in tautog fishing, a most memorable adventure! ♦







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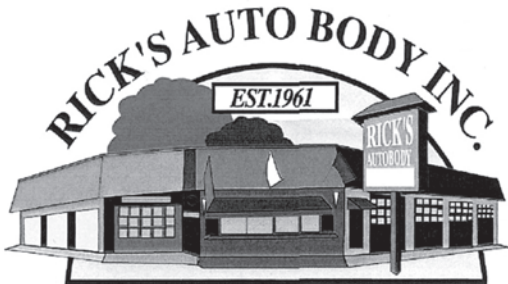
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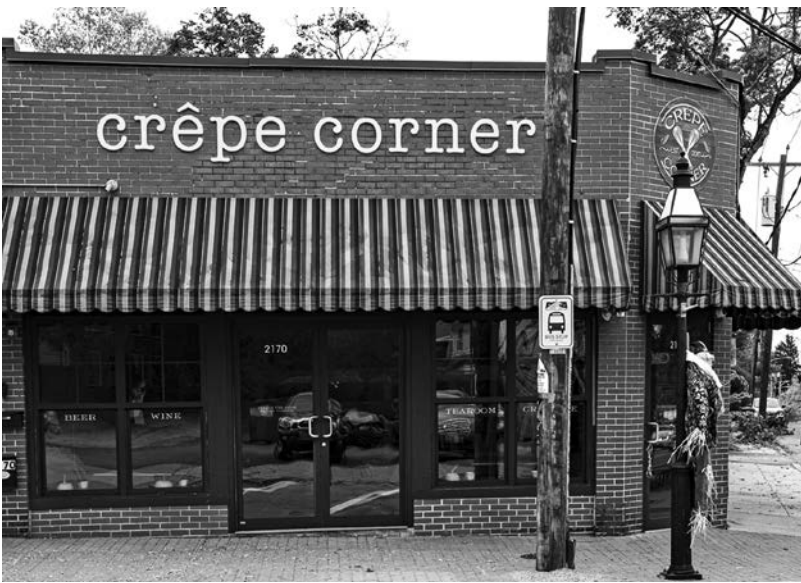
Crepe Corner



By SUE OZBEK

As we await news that travel may again be in our future, we look to find a similar opportunity close to home. In Pawtuxet Village there is now just such a place: Crepe Corner! In Rhode Island parlance, it is located where The Elephant Room/Shastea used to be.

Natacha Legein and Anthony Adagboyi sold their Crepe Corner Bakery, formerly located in Smithfield, and opened a similar bakery and coffee venue on Westminster Street in Providence. Some time later, they opened yet another Crepe Corner for all to experience here in Pawtuxet Village. The coffee and baked goods experience is ready for all who are looking for uniquely fresh food.



When one walks in, the European atmosphere surrounds with sights and smells. On one large wall a floor to ceiling painting of the Eiffel Tower in calming pinks and purples greets you. On another wall are several paintings and photographs of Parisian delights on display. Although the ambiance is French, Natacha reminds all that she and her delicious pastries are Belgian.

Crepe Corner offers many tasty and healthy treats. All foods are natural and made right there. They try to find the freshest fruits and vegetables daily and bake mostly gluten free breads and pastries. The menu provides for the interests and needs of vegetarians, vegans and other special tastes. Crepes are prepared upon order with a variety of fillings both savory and sweet. Waffles, a Belgian specialty, are also available. Natacha and her mother do most of the preparation and cooking. It is a hands-on operation without the use of commercial products. Natacha is especially proud of her Galette des Roix (three kings cake) available often, even though some may know it as a specialty for January 6, Epiphany.

Breads are baked daily for use in sandwiches or as toast. One can order a loaf of bread or two to take home if the order is given on Thursday and picked up on Saturday. Pastries are all made from scratch and are mildly sweet. The wall above the pastry case has a clear menu for your choice of many breakfast or lunch dishes.



Natacha Legein of Crepe Corner.

The pecan buns and cookies call from the case. Orders are taken and paid for at the counter.

Presently, there are two levels for indoor seating and, due to COVID rules, tables are comfortably distanced. Tables are cleaned regularly and a friendly Christine makes sure all is well and safe. There is also some outside seating available.

Natacha is well versed in coffees and chooses the best brands to serve including Illy for its dark and delicious taste. Several tea options are also available. Smoothie choices are available as well.

Hours for Crepe Corner are from 8 to 2 weekdays and from 8 to 3 on Saturdays and Sundays. Currently the shop is closed on Mondays. As we talked there was hope that hours might be extended to later afternoon possibilities and maybe a time for a French cocktail like Mimosas or a cherry (kir) mix.

Natacha and Anthony are very happy with their Pawtuxet location. They are busy raising their three small children and their days are full. They want happiness and an end to Covid worries for all. Hoping friends will find Crepe Corner as a friendly place to meet. ❖

Village Imprints



By KATIE FLYNN

I recently interviewed the owners of a new business that opened in Pawtuxet. Co-owners Leah and Jared Schroeder opened Village Imprints at 2164 Broad Street in the location that was formerly Lane's on Broad.

What was the idea behind your store and the logo Village Vibes?

I wanted to create a brand for Pawtuxet Village that incorporates comfortable clothes for everyone. Village Vibes represents a feeling you get when you are walking through the village. Someone listening to music in the park, people fishing off the bridge, or sitting out in the sun with friends at one of the Village restaurants. When you are in Pawtuxet Village, you know what the vibe is, full of life and relaxed at the same time. The two upright Vs at the end of the anchor are a sort of hidden emblem for Village Vibes. The 1638 is the year that Pawtuxet Village was founded, just two years after the first permanent settlement in Rhode Island was established.

What is your history and connection to Pawtuxet Village?

We moved to Gaspee Plateau about five years ago and right away loved the area. Pawtuxet Village is great because there is no pretense and people are genuine and just want to enjoy life. We live in one of the best places in Rhode Island, and we feel extremely lucky to be able to represent it with our clothing and products.

How did you get started and when did you decide to open up a brick and mortar store?

We own and operate a screen printing and embroidery business which allows us to produce our specific styles and decide on which pieces of clothing to print on. We want people to be comfortable and still look good while representing Pawtuxet Village.



Photo by Jim Turner.



We opened our doors on December 11, 2020, and have appreciated the outpouring of support from everyone.

What types of products do you currently sell and are there any more coming soon?

We have Pawtuxet Village neighborhoodies (zip up or pullover hoodies), long sleeve shirts, t-shirts, women's apparel and a children's section too. We have a great selection of snap-back hats and beanies, and gifts such as Pawtuxet Village shot glasses, koozies, tumblers, flags and prints.

You can visit their shop from Wednesday to Friday 1-4 and Saturday/Sunday 12-5, and follow them on Facebook or visit their website: www.villageimprints.com. ❖

The Beacon That Protects



By COLONEL RONALD W. BARNES,
COMMANDANT, PAWTUXET RANGERS, RIM

In my last article I wrote about a number of the military hereditary societies that exist. I am currently President of the Rhode Island Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. The official seal of the Society is the beacon pole, an interesting part of Rhode Island's revolutionary history. It surely would have been seen from Pawtuxet Village. Please enjoy the following article on the history of the Providence Beacon by Alfred Stone, Esq., RISSAR Historian, as delivered at the Society's Annual Meeting in 1894.

The beacon alluded to above, which is depicted on the badge of this Society, had its origin pursuant to the recommendation of Congress, and in accordance therewith it was voted at a town meeting held on July 3, 1775, that the town take steps regarding its erection to alarm the country in case of the approach of the enemy. At a meeting held a week later, a committee, consisting of Joseph Brown, Joseph Bucklin and Benjamin Thurber, was appointed to erect a beacon on Prospect Hill, a spot where, in 1667, one had been erected during the Indian war. This structure was very simple in its design, consisting of a wooden shaft, or mast, purchased of Joseph Brown, about eighty-five feet in height, securely braced at the foundation. Wooden pegs or steps at regular intervals projected from either side to enable a person to climb to the top. From the end of this shaft an iron crane was extended from which hung an iron basket, which was filled with flammable material and, by order of the town, a house was built at its base in which to store the combustibles so as to be ready at a moment's notice.



The Providence Gazette, July 29, 1775, informed the colonists that a "beacon is now erecting on a very high hill in the town by the order of the Honorable General Assembly. A watch is likewise kept on Tower Hill in case of any attempt by water from our savage enemies." Upon the completion of the beacon, the committee under whose direction it had been built was ordered "to fire the same on Thursday, the 17th day of August, at the setting of the sun, and that they procure one thousand hand-bills to be printed, to advertise the country thereof, that proper observations may be made of the bearing of the beacon from different parts of the country and that they notify the country that the beacon will not be fired at any time after August 17th, unless the town or some part of the colony should be attacked by an enemy, in which case the beacon will be fired and three cannon discharged to alarm the country that they may immediately repair to the town, duly equipped with arms and accoutrements." It is probable that these hand-bills contained the same information as the following notice, which appeared in the *Gazette* on August 12:

"PROVIDENCE BEACON"

The town of Providence to the inhabitants of the towns adjacent:

Loving friends and brethren in consequence of the recommendation of the Continental Congress that those seaport towns which are principally exposed to the ravages and depredations of our common enemies should be fortified and put in as good a state of defence as may be, which has also received the approbation of the legislature of the colony: besides a strong battery and entrenchment on the river, there has been lately erected on the greatest eminence in the town A Beacon for the purpose of alarming the country whenever it shall become necessary in our defence, and as we doubt not of the readiness of our friends and brethren, both within and without the government, to give us every assistance in their power on such an occasion if timely apprized thereof. This is therefore to inform you that it is our urgent request that you all hold yourself in readiness, and whenever you see said beacon on fire you immediately and without delay, with the best accoutrements, warlike weapons and stores you have by you, repair to the town of Providence, there to receive from the military officers present such orders as may be given by the authority of this jurisdiction for our common safety and defense. In case of an alarm we intend to fire the beacon and also discharge cannon to notify all to look out for the beacon. Be it observed and carefully remembered that the discharge of the cannon alone is not an alarm, but the firing of the beacon of itself, even without cannon, will be an alarm in all cases, excepting on Thursday, the 17th inst., at sunset, when the beacon will be fired not as an alarm, but that all may ascertain its bearings and fix such ranges as may secure them from a false alarm, and that they may know where to look for it hereafter. When you hear the cannon look out for the beacon."

This trial proved a perfect success. A letter received by John Carter, the publisher of the *Gazette*, states that it was observed over an area of country extending from Cambridge Hill to New London and Norwich, and from Newport to Pomfret. It is stated that many of the inhabitants of the neighboring country not properly notified of this trial, hurriedly left their homes and promptly repaired to Providence to report for duty, imagining that the town was about to be invaded by the enemy. The beacon, probably, was never fired after the trial of August 17th, unless, perhaps, at the proclamation of peace, it was used to spread the glad tidings throughout the neighboring country. ♦

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Wall Street *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

in San Mateo, California, after its relocation from New York. A bit ahead of his time to work remotely!

In his youth, Jerry became acquainted with Rhode Island and Jamestown through his mother, whose family ancestors came to Rhode Island in the 1600s, more specifically, to Pawtuxet! His mother, Beatrice (Rhodes) Palmieri, was a descendant from the original Rhodes family of Pawtuxet (Zachariah Rhodes arrived in 1642). She brought Jerry back to her native Rhode Island frequently for summer vacations. His grandfather, Theodore Rhodes, was a landmark builder in New York City after that line of the Rhodes family had moved from Pawtuxet to Connecticut well over a century ago. Theodore Rhodes settled in New York City and thus it became Mr. Palmieri’s birthplace.

After he became a full-time resident of Jamestown and was working remotely for Franklin, one of his favorite spots on the island was Beavertail. It was at Beavertail where he married his wife Lelia, right on the rocks by the ocean. Jerry had met his future wife in the bar car while commuting by train into New York City every day from Darien, Connecticut, his residence at the time, where he cared for his mother. Lelia was looking for a seat and they met when Jerry kindly offered his seat to her. The two struck up a friendship on their daily commute that would continue sporadically over many years, reconnecting at pivotal points in their lives and eventually ending up in marriage at Beavertail.

Lelia (Mrs. Palmieri) had an extraordinary story in her own right. In her 20s, she escaped from behind the Iron Curtain from communist Romania in the early 1970s, receiving political asylum at a U.S. embassy. With a civil engineering degree earned in Romania and an energetic outgoing personality, Lelia landed a job in New York City as a nuclear power design engineer. She was hired partly because



Vivian J. Palmieri with tulips in his garden at Cedar Hill.

there were so few women in the field of engineering. Despite arriving in the U.S. with little English, Lelia went on to earn a total of four master’s degrees during her own eventful career. Her adventurous and outward personality was a good accompaniment to Mr. Palmieri’s introversion.

In later life, the grounds of the Palmieri home at Cedar Hill in Jamestown would become a testament to some of Mr. Palmieri’s passions, including gardening and birdwatching. He cultivated beautiful gardens of thousands of tulips along with roses, daffodils, and other flowers. Mr. Palmieri’s horticultural passions also included an orchard and a grape arbor, as well as fruit trees and beehives to provide his plants with ready pollination. His love and dedication to roses came from his mother, who was extremely fond of English roses. Mr. Palmieri also owned “LaSata”, a home in Narragansett that he restored, adding extensive rose gardens. LaSata, or “Place of Peace” to native Americans, was originally owned in the late 1800s by the Bouvier family and was passed down to the grandfather of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy, who visited her relatives there as a youth in summer.

Following his passing in 2014, the Vivian J. Palmieri Charitable Trust was established to promote rose plantings around Jamestown. Subsequently, the geographical and charitable scope of the Trust has broadened. Mrs. Palmieri continues today to actively oversee the Trust and safeguard with great care the memory of her husband and his dedication to the passion of roses his mother passed down to him. And Pawtuxet Village is the better for this generosity of a descendant of one of Pawtuxet’s earliest families. ❖

Spring Haiku

A POEM BY DEBORAH HALLIDAY

Silver skies darken
Warm winds toss last winter’s leaves.
Soon the rain.

Watering lilies
Early summer morning
A skunk scurries home.

In the green garden
a feather lies
by the peonies.

Shaded summer porch
Wicker chair and cold iced tea
Fat fly buzzes.

At the waterfall
Current rushes
A heron stands silent.

Summer grass
Small bare feet running
Shrieks of little girls.

By the road
Pink roses sway.
Tonight the rain.

Boating in the Cove

BY GEORGE D. LASWELL / COMPLIMENTS OF HENRY A. L. BROWN

Pawtuxet Cove

About the busiest places in Rhode Island in the spring of the year are the boat yards and anchorages along both sides of Narragansett Bay, where hundreds of small craft of every description take to the water after lying idle during the winter months. But a small part of them are housed when not in commission, the rest lying upon the sandy beaches in sheltered coves, with covers of tarpaulin to protect them.

Perhaps the most popular of such places near Providence is Pawtuxet Cove, where hundreds of motor and sailboats are herded together for the winter, and about the time the pussy willows bloom the entire district presents a scene of great activity. Sunday is the busiest day of all, and from morning until night, scrapers and paint brushes wielded by amateur hands, ply industriously. When the boats are thoroughly scraped and painted, they are rolled down the sands into the water, there to remain until hauled ashore again in the fall. ❖

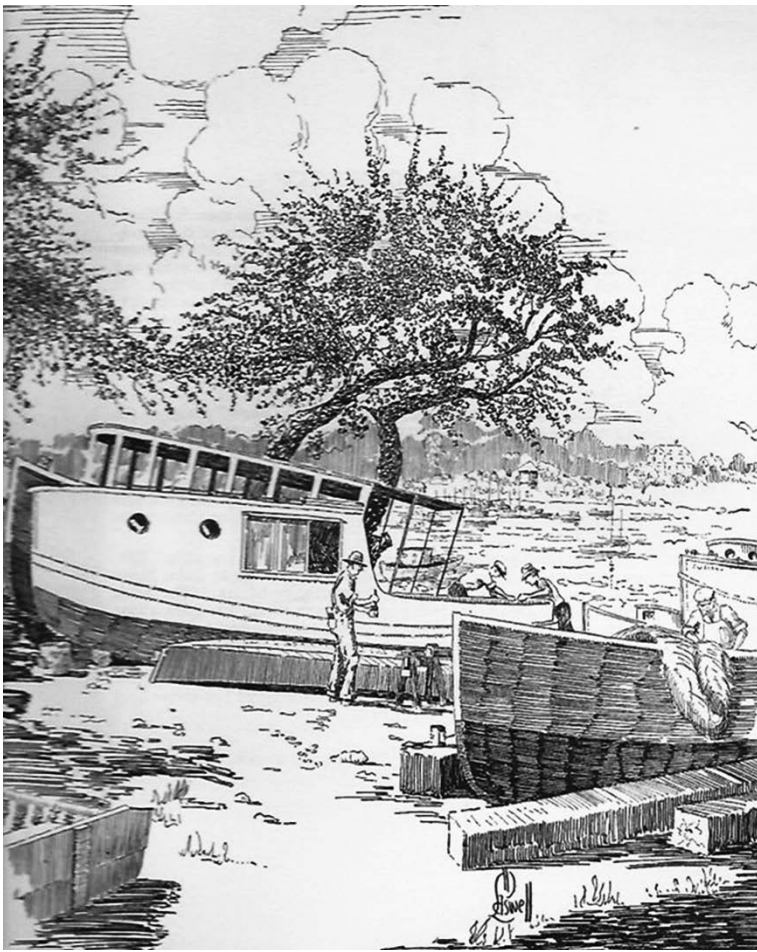
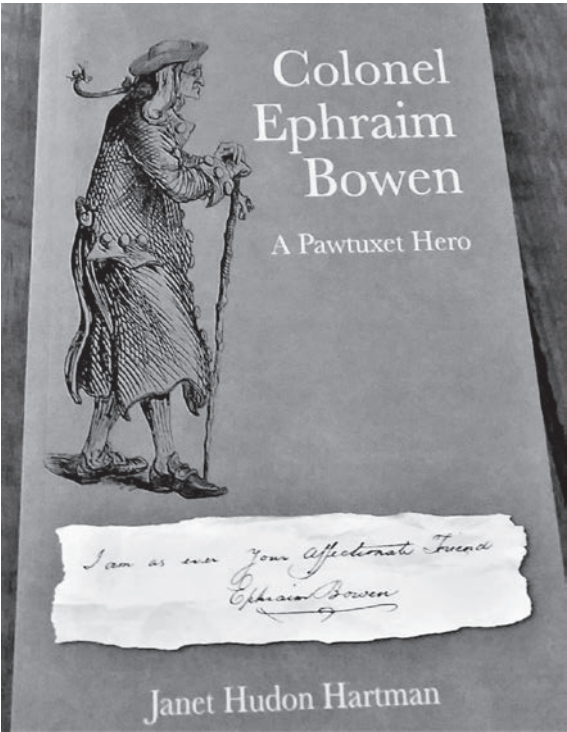


Image: George D. Laswell



Just in time for Gaspee Days, some great summer reading by local authors to keep you busy at the beach! Available locally at Noon or Twice Told Tales, online, or direct from the authors.

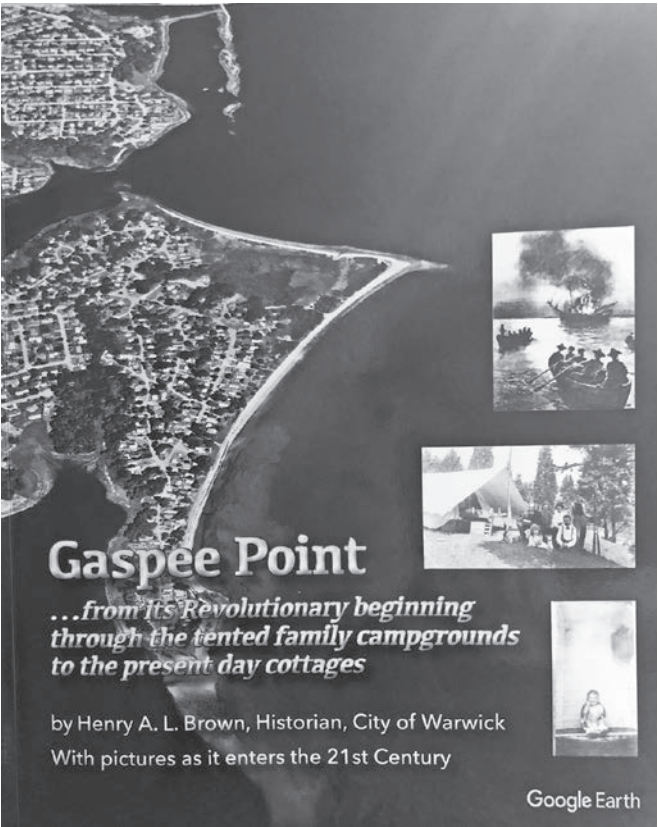
Colonel Ephraim Bowen: A Pawtuxet Hero
by Janet Hudon Hartman



Ephraim Bowen Jr. is best known for being the youngest man in the party of men who burned the British ship, *HMS Gaspee*, in Narragansett Bay in 1772. This daring act of aggression predated the Boston Tea Party and is celebrated annually in the village of Pawtuxet. At the time of this event, Ephraim was only 19 years old, making him the youngest man involved in the event and providing him with a long lifetime of memory. Here we uncover a more complete characterization of this remarkable man, his family, home, military career, business dealings and friends as well as what surrounded him in his daily life. A picture of what life was like during the 1800's in a colonial town.

Included is a map of the properties that existed during Bowen's lifetime in Pawtuxet Village—where they remain, were moved to, or those that have been lost since that time. ❖

Gaspee Point ...from its revolutionary beginning through the tented family campgrounds to the present day cottages
by Henry A.L. Brown



From the earliest times, this point of land extending into Narragansett Bay has had historic significance and brought recreation to thousands of Rhode Islanders. Warwick historian Henry A.L. Brown digs into his treasure trove of memorabilia and memories to tell the stories of Gaspee Point in full color. As one of the few Rhode Island summer communities still retaining its original character as a mecca for working people escaping the heat of the city for the summer, Henry relays the stories of the people, celebrations, clambakes, events, traditions, and life on this shore community. Starting out as a tented campsite, then built with cottages and outbuildings and later adapted to modern life, we learn what life was like before the outside world discovered this secret spot on our fabulous shoreline. ❖

Is it time to buy or sell a home?

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Many thanks to the following individuals who sponsored a wreath in honor or in memory of others. We appreciate your support each year and hope this brings good memories for you and your families. The wreaths are hung by Troop 4 Gaspee who do an excellent job of putting them on our lanterns, fences, and posts. The proceeds of the purchase of our wreaths this year from the Scouts will help defray their costs to attend summer camp.

- Adrian and Chris Beaulieu... In honor of our parents
- Susan and Jon Ozbek... In memory of Charles Haynes
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- Bonnie Hoisington... In memory of Barbara Baxter, Abbie Hoisington, and Ralph and Alice Johnson
- Gordon and Constance Brailsford
- Rick's Auto Body



Installing Honeybees as a Springtime Delight/Rite



By CAROLYN FLUEHR-LOBBAN

My husband Richard and I have been keeping bees on Fort Avenue for 15 years and, since our hives are visible from the street, many passersby stop and ask questions about this hobby, both out of curiosity and genuine interest and concern for the welfare of bees and all pollinators. Public understanding has grown for the importance of these insects for our food supply. There's an awareness that bees are in trouble due to the extensive use of pesticides in agriculture and especially on the large number of crops that rely upon bee pollination. These crops include apples and other fruit trees, citrus fruits, almonds, clover fields for grazing meat-producing farm animals, and a myriad of other varieties. In short, the slogan "No Bees, No Food" sums up the connection between the well-being of the pollinators and the American food supply.

While the bees we raise may pollinate only our small garden and raspberry bushes, they forage and pollinate many of our neighborhood spring trees, including maples, linden and basswood. Honey bees can fly up to three miles from their hives to forage and return to their specific hive. It is "governed" by their queen to whom they



Image by Annie Spratt from Pixabay.

are attached for their relatively short lives, for a few months of foraging from March to late fall (March to October in Rhode Island). In winter months, they cluster to keep the queen alive into January or February when she begins to lay the eggs that will create new bees. This regenerates the hive in time for spring foraging. If the bees do not survive the winter, and a third of American beehives do not, beekeepers must replace the hives with "bee packages": three pounds of honeybees (about 5,000 bees) and a caged queen. The queen is caged awaiting her installation and eventual acceptance of her pheromones by the "stranger" bees with whom she will reside for the rest of her life (one to two years). She is "accepted" in the new hive when the bees consume a candy plug to release her, usually within a few days.

Bee packages must be ordered in January or February for delivery from late March through May in New England. New beekeepers also must get the hives and other equipment they will need, including "bee suits," gloves and other protective clothing needed to "tend bees." Bee packages come from suppliers in Georgia and Florida and each one costs between \$130 and \$150; more expensive packages of hybridized bees from California can be purchased for about \$175.

Spring is the time to install new packages with the anticipation of six to seven months of foraging, when there is a dramatic buildup of the hive to as many as 20,000 bees. Bees forage for pollen and nectar from a wide variety of native flowers. They then reduce the moisture content from the pollen and nectar and add enzymes released from their bodies to produce the perfect local honey. Our honey is sold at the door on Fort Avenue and seasonally at Twice Told Tales in the Village. ❖

Pawtuxet History: Check Your Assumptions

BY DR. RICHARD LOBBAN

BY DR. RICHARD LOBBAN



When we moved to Pawtuxet Village in 1974, we lived in a “Bloomer Cottage” on 92 Ocean Ave. It was not the only one. Some were lost probably in a hurricane and others moved to Sheldon Street for other modifications.

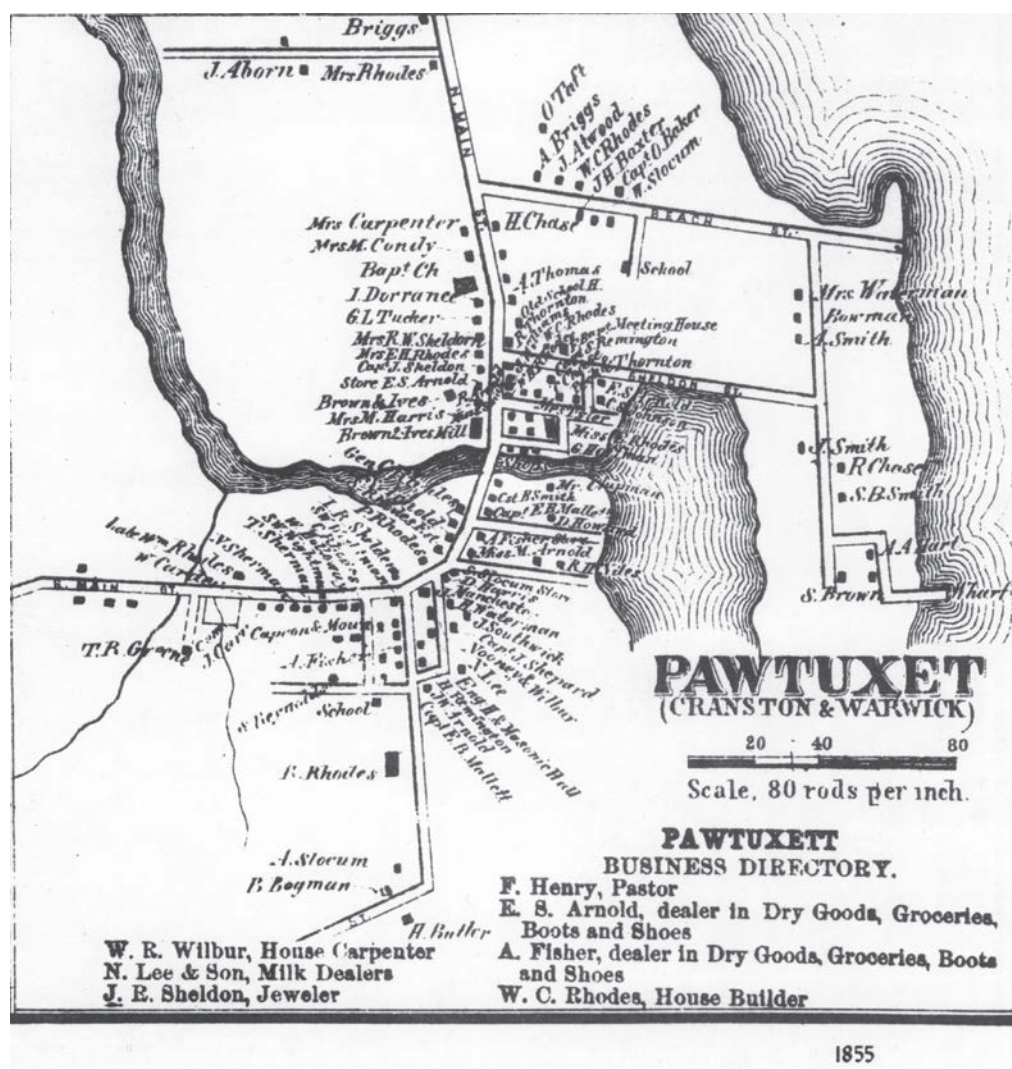
 The Bloomer factory on Commercial Street made aluminum products. We learned that things never stay the same in the Village.

We bought a house around the corner on 23 Fort Avenue in 1985 and rented it out, but liked the larger yard for two daughters, two offices, two dogs and, later, our bees, so we moved there in 1988. We were misinformed this was the 'Bogman House' and discovered that this was actually next door and only a fallen-in, over-grown stone cellar hole remained when we arrived. This is now replaced by a blue condominium. Please correct your history and maps.

Our house was adjusted to be called the Guilford W. Chase (1812-1897) House. Wrong again, he and his wife only bought the Second Empire mansard house in 1871 for a symbolic \$1.00 from Arnold and Sarah Smith under the condition that they would look after the Smiths until they passed away. Probably the Chases and Smiths were kinfolk of some sort. We are still trying to figure this out.

Because we wrongly thought our house dated to 1871, we stopped looking until an 1855 map and tax records of 1858 showed the house was owned by Arnold Smith even earlier. We believe he is descended from Simeon Smith (1746-1843) of the Pawtuxet Rangers. Still working on this too.

Bottom line: Use your critical thinking, check old deeds, city directories, and censuses. The history of your house can be fascinating and fun for open minds. ♦

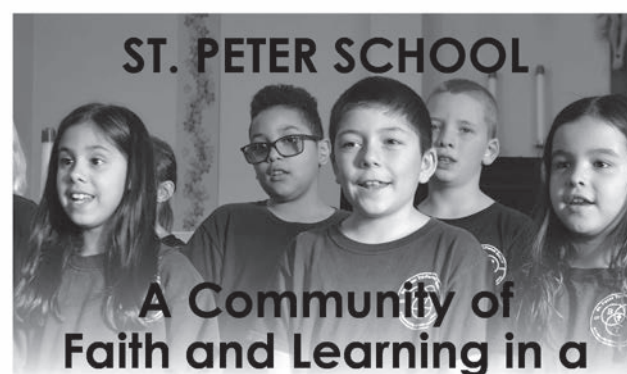


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The Bridge is the official publication of the Pawtuxet Village Association and serves to communicate local news and information, and to record new and old history of Pawtuxet Village and its residents.

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Open Meeting—Pawtuxet Park

The City of Warwick Planning Department will hold a **public meeting June 30 at 6:00 pm in the Pawtuxet Park gazebo** to discuss the community's desires for and concerns about the future of Pawtuxet Park. As part of this open meeting, the city planners will provide their vision and wishes for the park. This is an open meeting to exchange ideas, not to adopt or approve any specific plans. It is an opportunity for everyone to weigh-in on what we wish to see the park be in the coming years. The PVA will provide pizza and drinks and encourage everyone to come and hear the city's ideas and offer their own suggestions.



GASPEE DAYS COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES 2021 SEASON!

President Gina Dooley along with the volunteers of the Gaspee Days Committee are pleased to announce there will be a 2021 Gaspee Days celebration. The season begins with the parade in June and ends with the Arts and Crafts Festival in September.

The pandemic has limited the Gaspee Days Committee's ability to fundraise and cover the cost of the parade. Therefore the parade will be adjusted based on the budget available. A Gofundme page has been established to raise money to assist:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/i-love-a-parade>

All Gaspee Days events are subject to change based on state and city guidelines. All state and city health guidelines will be followed. For more information, visit **Gaspee.com**.

- Gaspee Days Proclamation - May 22
- Comeback Event - May 29, 1-5 p.m.
- Fireworks Display - June 5
- Ecumenical Service - June 12
- Virtual 5K Foot Race - June 12
- Gaspee Days Parade - June 12
- Burning of the Gaspee - June 12
- Arts and Crafts Festival - September 11-12
- Block Party - September




PAWTUXET VILLAGE FARMERS MARKET — CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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- **May 29:** Nime Chow: Best in RI—made by hand by our farmer Chang Xiong of Pak Express Farm, served fresh with peanut sauce.
- **June 12:** Salad Spectacular: All the greens you need for health! Market moves to William Hall Library 1825 Broad Street, Cranston (just for today).
- **July 17:** It's All About Flowers—featuring mini vases!
- **August 21:** Tomato Festival—tasting contest and raffle.
- **September 11:** Children's Tea Party—celebrate herbs with herbal tea.
- **October 30:** Last Market—celebration of fall crops and Halloween party! Dress up and join the fun.



Attics to Archives

PHOTOGRAPHS of PAWTUXET

Sunday, September 19th
1–5 PM
Aspray Boat House



pawtuxetvillageassociation.org

SAVE THE DATE!

Attics to Archives celebrates the curated photos of Pawtuxet Village life, families, waterfront, and neighborhoods over time. Images have been collected from personal donations and added to a special online site developed at the Providence Public Library. We'll share some of the iconic images and information on how to access this special treasure trove, with the special sale of prints and a silent auction. Watch for more details on our Facebook page and website.