

## Portsmouth

### "OLD SILVER" IS SUBJECT

The Portsmouth Historical Society will meet at 8 p.m. Wednesday at its rooms on East Main Road. Mrs. George M. Simpson will speak on "Old Silver." J. Fred Sherman will preside.

### HEAR LECTURER

Mrs. George Simpson of Newport gave an interesting lecture at the Portsmouth Historical Society on Wednesday night, telling of the beginning of the silver industry in this country, and citing New England as the principle center.

Newport was a large silver manufacturing center, and many of the silver articles made here may still be found in local collections, she stated. Mrs. Simpson related that her interest in collecting silver began when her family lost all of a very valuable collection during a hurricane in the Virgin Islands, where her father was a counsel.

The speaker exhibited a most interesting and varied collection of silver articles, including flat silver, trays, bowls, egg cups, and even a marrow scoop. Her collection was made up of English, Dutch, and some French silver and many colonial and early American articles.

J. Fred Sherman, president, conducted the business meeting. The next meeting will be held on Dec. 7, when the Portsmouth Girl Scouts will put on a Christmas program. Mrs. Jethro H. Peckham is in charge of the meeting.

### PERSONALS

Newport has claimed Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, victor of the Battle of Lake Erie in 1813, as its very own. The imposing statue in Eisenhower Park is of the naval hero whose home was in the nearby Colonial building now owned and occupied by the Salvation Army. The fact remains, however, that he was born on the other side of the bay in South Kingstown. What brings it to mind is that the General Assembly has approved a resolution designating relocated Route 1 in Narragansett the Oliver Hazard Perry Memorial Highway.

# Maud Stevens Dead at 80

### Newport Woman Was Noted for Interest In Colonial History

Miss Maud Lyman Stevens, 80, Colonial historian and a director and corresponding secretary of the Newport Historical Society, died yesterday at her home, 30 Kay Street, Newport.

Born in Haverhill, Mass., Miss Stevens came to Newport at an early age and spent most of her life there and in Jamestown, where for many years she lived at her parents' summer home. She was the daughter of the late George and Harriet (Lyman) Stevens.

In addition to her interest in Rhode Island and Newport history, Miss Stevens was an enthusiastic and active gardener. She was the first president of the Jamestown Garden Club and she maintained an elaborate garden at her Jamestown home.

Miss Stevens' grandfather, the late Rev. Charles T. Brooks, was pastor of the Channing Memorial Unitarian Church in Newport and she was herself an active participant in the church's affairs.

She was the author of many papers on Newport and Rhode Island history. When the Vernon House in Newport was opened to the public, she wrote the official paper recounting the history of the famous Colonial home.

It was partly through her efforts that the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House, the oldest home in Newport, was opened as a public museum.

She held her posts with the historical society until her death and was also vice president of the Newport home for the aged.

Other organizations in which she held memberships are the Rhode Island Historical Society, the Newport Garden Club, the Colonial Dames of Rhode Island, the Newport Art Association and the Current Topics Club of Newport.

Miss Stevens was taken seriously ill about 20 years ago, and although she partially recovered she had not been able to resume her life on as active a scale as before the illness. It was only within the last 10 weeks that her health began to decline rapidly.

She is survived by a brother,

*Fall River Herald Dec 8, 1949*

### Scouts Entertain Portsmouth Group

A Christmas songfest with featured presentations by members of Senior Troop 40, Girl Scouts, under the direction of Mrs. Ruth A. P. Earle, leader, was held at the meeting of the Portsmouth Historical Society last night in Historical Building, East Main Road.

Mrs. Jethro H. Peckham, program chairman, was the pianist. Presentations by the Girl Scouts were:

"Jingle Bells", "Deck the Halls", "Jolly Winter", "O Come All Ye Faithful" with a vocal duet by Joy Earle, soprano, and Marie Louise Pacaud, alto; "Lullaby" by Emily Rigby, soprano soloist; "Figgie Pudding" by the group.

"To Bethlehem" a duet by Joy Earle and Marie Pacaud; "O, Ye Joyful People" by the group with the descant by Joy Earle; "They Sang That Night in Bethlehem," solo by Emily Rigby; "O, Holy Night" by group; "Toyland" by Joy Earle; "When the Winter Sun" from Gloria in Excelsis, and "Jesu Bambino", an anthem, by the group.

Other Scouts singing were Irene Lima, Barbara Gibau, Sherry Cornell, Nina Cook and Jean Bishop.

President J. Fred Sherman, George White, Leonard Cavanaugh and Norman R. Lantz offered a selection in quartet, "We Three Kings." Volunteer songsters from the audience were Mrs. William A. Chase, Mrs. Howard J. Earle, Mrs. Leonard Cavanaugh, rendering "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear."

At the business meeting, the members voted to send greetings to Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. West of Laurel, Md. on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary to be observed on Dec. 17. Mr. West who resided at Bristol Ferry for several years is one of the founders of the Portsmouth Historical Society.

Senator Perry J. Sherman reported on repairs made to the Gibbs School on Union Street.

*Fall River Herald Mar 24, 1950*

### Portsmouth Unit To Be Renovated

Additional repairing and re-decoration will begin soon on the Historical Building, according to action taken at a meeting of the board of directors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Chase, Church Lane. J. Fred Sherman

### HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Russell Albright of R.I. State College addressed the Portsmouth Historical Society last evening at its rooms on East Main Road. He spoke on, "The Pennsylvania Dutch" and showed colored slides.

*Providence Journal*

April 6, 1950

A talk on the artistry of the Pennsylvania Dutch in decorating and making their pottery, furniture, basketry, tinware, copperware and wrought iron was given by J. Russell Albright of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture at the meeting of the Portsmouth Historical Society last night in Historical Building. Slide-films were used to illustrate the talk. The meeting was conducted by J. Fred Sherman, president.

*F. R. Herald*  
April 6, 1950

### HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Portsmouth Historical Society met in the town hall last night. Miss Evelyn B. Chase presided in the absence of the president, J. Fred Sherman.

Town Clerk Arthur A. Sherman gave a talk on "Old Records," and displayed a number of them. Mrs. William A. Chase reported progress on the several renovations now being made in the society's building on East Main Road.

Wilfred Lewis reported on a plan for making improvements on the grounds around the building. This matter will be discussed by the board of directors in their building Wednesday at 8 p.m. J. Fred Sherman will preside.

*Providence Journal*  
May 3, 1960

### Portsmouth Group Studies Records

The first records of the Town of Portsmouth were examined by members of the Portsmouth Historical Society and their guests at a meeting last night in the Town Hall with Town Clerk Arthur A. Sherman interpreting the significance of the records.

*Providence Journal*

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where her father was a counselor.

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Miss Stevens was taken seriously ill about 20 years ago, and although she partially recovered she had not been able to resume her life on as active a scale as before the illness. It was only within the last 10 weeks that her health began to decline rapidly.

She is survived by a brother, George Stevens of Narragansett, eight nephews and nieces and a cousin, and a cousin of her mother, Peyton R. Hazard, who lives at the Kay Street home.

Funeral services will be held at the Channing Memorial Church Monday at 2 p.m. The Rev. Leonard Helie, pastor, will officiate. Burial will be in the Island Cemetery.

SIGNED:  
*Fall River Herald* No. 16,  
1942.  
The late Mrs. Maud L. Stevens  
of Newport was a charter member  
of the Portsmouth Historical So-  
ciety, and contributed many gifts  
of historical significance to the  
local museum.

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Senator Perry J. Sherman reported on repairs made to the Gibbs School on Union Street.

*Fall River Herald* Mar 24, 1950

## Portsmouth Unit

### To Be Renovated

Additional repairing and redecoration will begin soon on the Historical Building, according to action taken at a meeting of the board of directors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Chase, Church Lane. J. Fred Sherman, president, presided. The work will begin in the northeast-corner room which will be used for a library. The room will be plastered, papered and painted.

The directors voted to purchase cabinets in which the more valuable pieces of the museum may be kept in safety. Wilfred G. Lewis was named committee chairman for improvement of the grounds.

Gifts from Mr. and Mrs. Howard A. Pierce of Quaker Hill included the discharge of William G. Munroe during Civil War period from the Lovell General Hospital at Portsmouth Grove, now known as Melville; an issue of the Fall River Weekly News, 1843, No. 1 of Volume 1, when Fall River was a town, and carrying news of its financial town meeting.

Another gift is a book of minutes of School District No. 6, at Bristol Ferry, one of the seven districts of the town, when each one operated separately.

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Wilfred Lewis reported on a plan for making improvements on the grounds around the building. This matter will be discussed by the board of directors in their building Wednesday at 8 p.m. J. Fred Sherman will preside. *Prov. Journal*

May 3, 1950

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Miss Evelyn B. Chase, vice president, conducted the meeting in the absence of J. Fred Sherman, president.

Five new memberships were received. Wilfred G. Lewis submitted a plan for improvement of the grounds of the Historical Building and the matter was deferred to a meeting of the Board of Directors next Wednesday night in the society's quarters.

An invitation to attend the program in observance of State Independence Day at the Rhode Island State College, on Thursday, May 4, was read.

Mrs. William A. Chase librarian, reported that plastering in Historical Building had been completed and the woodwork ready for painting.

*Fall River News* May 1950

# ~Clippings~

June 1950-1951

## Oldest School Building on Island Fall River Herald June 13, 1950 Is Donated to Portsmouth Society

J. Fred Sherman was reelected president of the Portsmouth Historical Society at their annual meeting held last night in Historical Building. Herbert Hall of Union Street donated to the society the oldest school building on the Island, which stands on his property.

The building will be moved to a permanent site and renovated. Miss Evelyn B. Chase and Mrs. Phoebe Edmundson were appointed a committee to find a site for the building and to make arrangements for its removal.

Also reelected were Miss Evelyn B. Chase, vice president, Mrs. Wilfred G. Lewis, secretary, Senator Perry J. Sherman, treasurer, Mrs. William A. Chase, librarian and Dr. Berton W. Storrs, custodian. Wifred G. Lewis, William A. Chase and Mrs. Norman Copeland were appointed a Board of Directors for three years.

Appointed to the program committee were Miss Chase, Mrs. Phoebe Edmundson, Miss Virginia Farnham. The society approved a planned planting submitted by Mr. Lewis, to be carried out at a later date.

In response to an appeal from the Portsmouth Committee on the Newport Hospital Fair, Aug. 17, members voted to donate articles individually in the name of the

society. A loan exhibit of old teacups was held in conjunction with the meeting.

## Fall River Herald Portsmouth Ferry June 21, 1950 To Prudence Will Get Consideration

Congressional leaders have informed Mayor Grant they will consider the suitability of locating a ferry landing at Portsmouth to service the proposed hoof and mouth laboratory on Prudence Island when the project gets underway.

Grant received promise of consideration from Sen. Theodore Francis Green, Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge, Sen. Leverett Saltonstall and Rep. Joseph W. Martin Jr. The Mayor had asked support of a Portsmouth landing as an employment aid to this city and nearby Rhode Island communities.

lyn Peyton,  
Fall River Herald, July 13, 1950

### HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETS

Thirty members and guests attended the annual picnic of the Portsmouth Historical Society at the home of Fred Sherman.

NORMAN—On Apr. 6, 1950, Bradford Norman, at his home, Brook Farm, West Main Road, Portsmouth, R. I. Services at St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, on Monday, April 10, at 3 p.m. Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

## BRADFORD NORMAN DIES; EX-WATER WORKS HEAD

### Banker Was Long Active In Civic Circles

Veteran Member of Masons  
Operated Dairy Farm at His  
Residence in Portsmouth

Bradford Norman, 83, former principal owner of the Newport Water Works and prominent in banking and civic circles for many years in this city, died



Fall River Herald July 13, 1950  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A talk on the Sherman genealogy, tracing the lineage of the Shermans beyond Philip Shearman, a founder of the Town of Portsmouth, was given by Waldo Sherman of Westport at the basket supper meeting of the Portsmouth

Abbie Kinsley Norman, he was born in this city December 25, 1866, and spent most of his life here. His wife, the former Miss Emma Anna Collins, whom he married in 1892, died two years ago.

His father, who established the Newport Water Works in 1878, was active in constructing water works in several of the Eastern states.

Bradford Norman attended Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, becoming associated with his father in 1893. He built and was president of the Jamestown Water Works and for many years was president of the Newport Water Works until it was taken over by the Utilities Power & Light Company and later by the city.

He was a former trustee of the Newport Hospital. During his term, the present Nurses' Home on Broadway was constructed. He has been an incorporator and trustee of the Savings Bank of Newport since 1908, holding successively the offices of vice president and president. He was a former president and was, at the time of his death, a director of the Newport National Bank.

He was also the president of the People's Library, a trustee of Long Wharf and a trustee of the Townsend Fund.

He was one of the founders in 1888, former governor and president of the Clambake Club of Newport, of which his son is now president. He has also served as treasurer and president of the Newport Reading Room.

He was formerly active in local Masonic circles, being one of the over-50-year members of St. John's Lodge. He served in all local lodges from the Blue up through Perfection; a member of the Rhode Island Consistory, 32d Degree, Ancient and Accepted Order of the Scottish Rite and a member of the Palestine Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

In addition to his business activities, Mr. Norman operated for many years a dairy farm, covering over 250 acres. His hobby was Hereford beef cattle, the only herd on the island for many years.

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*Ray Eve Bul. July 13, 1950*

#### HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETS

Thirty members and guests attended the annual picnic of the Portsmouth Historical Society at the home of J. Fred Sherman, president, yesterday afternoon and evening. Waldo Sherman, guest speaker, took as his topic the genealogy of the Sherman family. All Shermans in this locality who could be contacted, were invited.

Shermans were present from Newport, Middletown and Swansea, as well as Portsmouth. Many members of the society were descended from Philip Sherman, first of the line to settle here. With his talk the speaker showed an exhibit of Colonial articles.

The program committee will meet next Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Phoebe Edmundson in Middletown to plan the annual pilgrimage to be held in August.

The second annual open house will be held at the Historical Building Aug. 27 to commemorate the Battle of Rhode Island.

## Fall River Herald Portsmouth Ferry June 27, 1950 To Prudence Will Get Consideration

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## In Civic Circles

Veteran Member of Masons  
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Bradford Norman

*Fall River Herald July 13, 1950*

#### HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The speaker noted that he was a descendent of the fourth son of Phillips Shearman. Fifteen guests were invited to hear the story of their lineage, coming from Swansea, and Middletown as well as Portsmouth.

The program committee will meet Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Phoebe Edmundson, West Main Road, Middletown, to plan for the annual pilgrimage, it was announced.

Plans were announced to hold the second annual "Open House," Aug. 29, commemorating the Battle of Rhode Island. The Historical Building stands on the spot where the first skirmish of the battle took place.

*DaLE TIDWELL*

116 W. 22 Newport Hospital. During his term, the present Nurses' Home on Broadway was constructed. He has been an incorporator and trustee of the Savings Bank of Newport since 1908, holding successively the offices of vice president and president. He was a former president and was, at the time of his death, a director of the Newport National Bank.

He was also the president of the People's Library, a trustee of Long Wharf and a trustee of the Townsend Fund.

He was one of the founders in 1888, former governor and president of the Clambake Club of Newport, of which his son is now president. He has also served as treasurer and president of the Newport Reading Room.

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In addition to his business activities, Mr. Norman operated for many years a dairy farm, covering over 250 acres. His hobby was Hereford beef cattle, the only herd on the island for many years. His large brick mansion on West Main road, is flanked by a large, neatly-kept apple orchard.

Surviving are his daughter, Barbara, Mrs. Benjamin Ladd Cook, of Portsmouth, a son, Bradford Norman, Jr., vice president of the Commercial National Bank and Trust Company of New York, and three grandchildren, Daniel W. Jones, Bradford Norman, 3d, and Priscilla Elizabeth Norman.

Also surviving is a brother, Reginald Norman, of this city, the last of his immediate generation. Three sisters died here within the last 18 months, Mrs. William R. Hunter, Mrs. Frederick H. Prince and Mrs. George Cerio.

Funeral services will be held in St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Portsmouth, at 3 o'clock Monday afternoon.

## Bradford Norman Dead in Portsmouth

Bradford Norman, retired president of the Savings Bank of New- and the Newport Water Works, died last night at his Brook Farm home in Portsmouth after a long illness. He was 83 years old.

He was born Dec. 25, 1866, a son of the late George H. and Abbie Kinsley Norman, and after attending Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology became associated in business with his father, a pioneer in the development of New England water companies.

He became president of the Jamestown Water Works in 1893, and of the Newport company in 1918, remaining as its head until the city took the property by condemnation proceedings in 1936. He had also been a director and was long chairman of the People's Library of Newport, and a trustee of Newport Hospital, Long Wharf and the Townsend Fund.

He is survived by a daughter, Barbara, wife of Benjamin Ladd Cook, who lived with him; a son, Bradford Norman Jr. of New York; a brother, Reginald Norman of Newport, and three grandchildren.

### SOCIETY GETS GIFTS

Gifts to the Portsmouth Historical Society from Dr. Alice Elliott of Providence were announced at the meeting of the board of directors Wednesday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Chase, of Church Lane.

These included the desk which was built for Julia Ward Howe from specifications of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and at which many of her famous works were written, and also pictures and other furniture belonging to Julia Ward Howe. Dr. Elliott resided in Portsmouth, at Bristol Ferry, many years ago.

Plans for the annual open house to be held on Aug. 29, commemorating the Battle of Rhode Island, were discussed. Sept. 13 was set as the date for the annual pilgrimage, which will be made to South County, visiting the South County Museum in the morning and Mystic, Conn., to see the whaling museum, where the "William Morgan," famous whaling vessel formerly at the Col. Greene estate, is preserved.

Plans for the improvements which have been made and which are to be made to the Historical Society building were discussed, and it was announced that the library has been completed and work begun.

ASS., HERALD NEWS, WEDNESDAY, AUG

## Importance of Voting Is Stressed By Secretary Cote at Portsmouth

Secretary of State Armand H. Cote was the speaker yesterday at open house of the Portsmouth Historical Society at the Historical Building, East Main Road and Union Street.

He stressed the importance of exercising our American privilege of voting and expressed displeasure with those who object to government policies and yet do not fulfill their duties as citizens by voting.

Cote explained the primary law and also spoke about the recreational and Summer time facilities in Rhode Island and distributed information explaining advantages in the State.

The society expressed a vote of thanks to Mrs. William Chase for her work in renovating the library and assembling the old books there. The kitchen which has been

newly decorated, was open for the first time. In this room are household articles dating back to 1860.

Among these are an Edison phonograph with cylinder records and a morning glory horn, dishes, glassware and spectacles, etc. The Historical Building, the former Union Church, was built in 1861 and in December 1865 it was voted that the building be dedicated in January, 1866. This data is from the records now in the library.

The furniture and pictures recently presented to the Society by the Julia Ward Howe estate were on display. The rooms were decorated with dahlias and zinnias.

The committee was J. Fred Sherman, president; Miss Evelyn B. Chase, vice president; State Senator Perry J. Sherman, Mrs. Wilfred G. Lewis, Mrs. William Chase and Dr. Berton W. Storrs.

### Fall River Herald TO BE SPEAKER

Stanley Clarke of Bailiwick Farm, Middle Road, will speak on "Chief Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes" at the meeting of the Portsmouth Historical Society, Wednesday night at 8, in Historical Building. President J. Fred Sherman will conduct the meeting.

The Mt. Hope Home Demonstration will meet in special session Wednesday at 10:30 A. M. at the home of Mrs. Albert J. Bellavance of Narragansett Road to begin work on the UN flag. Members will bring basket lunches.

Oct. 1, '50

### SOCIETY TO HEAR CLARKE

The Portsmouth Historical Society will meet at their rooms on Union Street on Wednesday at 8 p.m. with Stanley Clarke of Bailiwick Farm as guest speaker.

His subject will be "Chief Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes." J. Fred Sherman, president, will conduct the business.

Prov. Bulletin  
Oct. 2, '50

EDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1950

## Portsmouth Historical Unit Hears Primary Law Talk

An explanation of the Rhode Island primary law was given by Armand H. Cote, secretary of state, at the open meeting of the Portsmouth Historical Society Tuesday afternoon in the society building on East Main road.

The secretary stressed the duty of every citizen to exercise the privilege of voting and decried the practise of criticizing government policies by those who do not fulfill their own duties by going to the polls. He called attention to the many recreational facilities offered by the state and distributed publicity sheets on the subject.

A vote of thanks was given Mrs. William Chase for her work of renovating the library and assembling old books. The newly decorated kitchen was open for an initial inspection, showing household articles dating back to 1860. Also on display were an old Edison phonograph with cylinder records, dishes, glassware, spectacles and other items.

Furniture and pictures recently presented to the society by the estate of Julia Ward Howe were on display. On the committee in charge were J. Fred Sherman, president, Miss Evelyn B. Chase, Senator Perry J. Sherman, Mrs. Wilfred G. Lewis, Mrs. Chase and Dr. Berton W. Storrs.

## Fall River Herald - July 28, '50 Portsmouth Group Plans Pilgrimage To South County, Mystic on Sept. 13

### Fall River Herald Portsmouth Group Holds Pilgrimage Sept. 21, '50

Fifteen members of the Portsmouth Historical Society took the annual pilgrimage yesterday to the South County Museum, North Kingston, where they viewed articles and buildings depicting old time life in Rhode Island and to the Marine Museum at Mystic, Conn., which included a visit to the old whaler, Charles W. Morgan.

Gifts reported were pictures and furniture, once the possessions of Julia Ward Howe. Among the gifts, made by Dr. Alice Elliott of Providence, formerly of Bristol Ferry, is a desk made to the specifications by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow for Julia Ward Howe and at which much of her writing was done.

1950

WS, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1950.

## Portsmouth Society Hears Talk

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Plans for the annual open house to be held on Aug. 29, commemorating the Battle of Rhode Island, were discussed. Sept. 13 was set as the date for the annual pilgrimage, which will be made to South County, visiting the South County Museum in the morning and Mystic, Conn., to see the whaling museum, where the "William Morgan," famous whaling vessel formerly at the Col. Greene estate, is preserved.

Plans for the improvements which have been made and which are to be made to the Historical Society building were discussed, and it was announced that the library has been completed and work begun on the kitchen. Members plan to assemble at the building this evening to paint the kitchen.

*Prov. Journal*  
July 14 TOWN NOTES 28 '50

#### PLAN OPEN HOUSE

The Portsmouth Historical Society will hold open house Tuesday, from 2 to 6 P. M. in commemoration of the Battle of Rhode Island at the Historical Building, East Main Road, which stands on the spot where the first skirmish of the battle took place.

The committee is J. Fred Sherman, president; Miss Evelyn B. Chase, vice president; State Senator Perry J. Sherman, Mrs. William A. Chase, Mrs. Wilfred G. Lewis and Dr. Berton W. Storrs.

Renovations in the library have been completed and the kitchen is in readiness for display purposes.

national and Summer time facilities in Rhode Island and distributed information explaining advantages in the State.

The society expressed a vote of thanks to Mrs. William Chase for her work in renovating the library and assembling the old books there. The kitchen which has been

day.

#### 50 ATTEND OPEN HOUSE

Fifty persons yesterday attended the open house at the Portsmouth Historical Society to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Rhode Island.

Secretary of State Cote spoke on the recreational facilities in Rhode Island, and outlined the state's publicity program.

He cited the privileges Americans have in our democracy, and stressed the duty of each to vote. He also explained our primary laws.

A vote of thanks was given to Mrs. William Chase for her services in redecorating and arranging the library, where old volumes are on display, and the kitchen, where articles of the late 19th century are on display.

Visitors viewed the furniture belonging to Julia Ward Howe, and many other newly acquired articles. A model of Fort Ticonderoga, made by Robert Silva, was on display in the DAR room.

The building, which was built in 1865, was decorated with dahlias and zinnias and flowers were placed on the monument at the corner of Union Street.

The committee in charge of the open house included J. Fred Sherman, Perry J. Sherman, Mrs. Wilfred G. Lewis and Dr. Berton W. Storrs.

#### HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Portsmouth Historical Society will take its annual pilgrimage tomorrow and members are asked to assemble at the Jamestown Ferry landing in Newport at 9:30 a.m.

The group will visit the Marine Museum in Mystic, Conn., and the South County Museum in R.I.

display. The rooms were decorated with dahlias and zinnias.

business.

*Prov. Bulletin*  
Oct. 2, '50

## Fall River Herald - July 28, '50 Portsmouth Group Plans Pilgrimage To South County, Mystic on Sept. 8

The annual Historical Pilgrimage of the members of the Portsmouth Historical Society will be held on Sept. 13 this year to view the South County Museum, South County, R. I., and to Mystic, Conn., for a visit to the old whaling ship, William Morgan according to plans discussed at a meeting of the Board of Directors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Chase of Church Lane.

Tentative plans were discussed for the program of their annual open house on Aug. 29, celebrating the anniversary of the Battle of Rhode Island.

Gifts reported were pictures and furniture, once the possessions of Julia Ward Howe. Among the gifts, made by Dr. Alice Elliott of Providence, formerly of Bristol Ferry, is a desk made to the specifications by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow for Julia Ward Howe and at which much of her writing was done.

Renovations in the library were reported to be complete and a group of members volunteered to paint the kitchen in Historical Building tonight.

#### ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin L. Cook were in charge of the annual pilgrimage of the Portsmouth Historical Society yesterday, when the group visited the South County Museum, North Kingston, and the Marine Museum in Mystic.

Basket lunches were enjoyed at Mystic, after which the group continued to Stonington Point.

Transportation was furnished by Mr. and Mrs. Cook, J. Fred Sherman, Mrs. Rose Souza, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Durfee.

*Prov. Bul. Sept. 8*

## Fall River Herald Portsmouth Group Sept. 21, '50 Holds Pilgrimage

Fifteen members of the Portsmouth Historical Society took the annual pilgrimage yesterday to the South County Museum, North Kingston, where they viewed articles and buildings depicting old time life in Rhode Island and to the Marine Museum at Mystic, Conn., which included a visit to the old whaler, Charles W. Morgan.

The pilgrimage was led by Benjamin Ladd Cook of West Main Road. Drivers were J. Fred Sherman, president, Mrs. Rose Souza, Henry Durfee and Mr. Cook.

1950

WS, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1950.

## Portsmouth Society Hears Talk On Life of Chief Justice Holmes

A talk on the personal life of Chief Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes was given before the meeting of the Portsmouth Historical Society last night by Stanley Clarke of Bailiwick Farm, who related many anecdotes concerning his association with Chief Justice Holmes as his secretary in 1912. J. Fred Sherman, president, conducted the business meeting.

Gifts received were the first issue of the Newport Daily News, May 4, 1846, from Mrs. Alfred C. Anthony of Middletown, Old-fashioned apparel from the family of Gardner Sherman, old newspapers from W. E. Ragsdale and Mrs. Howard Bailey.

A sword which was unearthed at Fort Butts by Berkley Hall and Edward Korzeneski was given by Mrs. Hall, and a collection of old

the state and the subject.

A vote of thanks was given Mrs. William Chase for her work of renovating the library and assembling old books. The newly decorated kitchen was open for an initial inspection, showing household articles dating back to 1860. Also on display were an old Edison phonograph with cylinder records, dishes, glassware, spectacles and other items.

Furniture and pictures recently presented to the society by the estate of Julia Ward Howe were on display. On the committee in charge were J. Fred Sherman, president Miss Evelyn B. Chase, Senator Perry J. Sherman, Mrs. Wilfred G. Lewis, Mrs. Chase and Dr. Berton W. Storrs.

school books by Mrs. Wilfred G. Lewis, of Union Street.

Miss Gladys Doyle and Mrs. Mary McCain of Bristol Ferry donated over 100 books, an old-fashioned high chair, a silver match holder and gold and silver tooth picks from the Lauder house in memory of their mother, Mary Lauder.

Mrs. Helen Hasbrouck donated an American flag and old receipts for making wine, ink and various household uses.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1950

# Historic Group Gets Gifts

## Portsmouth Society Receives Collection Of Books, Newspapers

The first newspaper published by the Newport Daily News on May 4, 1846 was among the collection given to the Portsmouth Historical Society last night by Mrs. Alfred Anthony.

A book collection also was given to the society by Mrs. Anthony.

More than 100 books, an antique high chair, gold and silver individual tooth picks, a silver match holder and other heirlooms from the Lauder house were given in memory of Mrs. Mary Lauder by her daughters, Miss Gladys Doyle and Mrs. Mary McCain.

A Revolutionary period sword, found at Fort Butts by Berkley Hall and Edward Korsnesky was given by Mrs. Hall, and old-fashioned clothing was donated by the Gardner Sherman family.

Other old newspapers were given by Mrs. Howard Bailey and by William E. Ragsdale.

A collection of old schoolbooks was given by Mrs. Wilfred Lewis, a flag by Mrs. Helen Hasbrouck, and a book of "Recipes, Worth Their Weight in Gold" including recipes for wine, ink and many other household necessities.

More than 40 persons heard Stanley Clark, of Baliwick Farm, speak on the life of Chief Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Clark was secretary to Mr. Holmes in 1912 in Washington.

He told human and interesting anecdotes about both Mr. Holmes and his wife.

J. Fred Sherman conducted the business meeting which preceded the speaker. The next meeting will be held on Nov. 1.

### CHURCH SUPPER

## Historical Society at Portsmouth Announces Program for the Year

Dr. Stephen B. Luce, president of the Newport Historical Society, addressed members of the Portsmouth Historical Society on the value of a historical society in a community at their meeting last night in the Historical Building, East

Wood. *Journal*, June 14, 1950

### MRS. SHERMAN RE-ELECTED

J. Fred Sherman was re-elected president of the Portsmouth Historical Society at a meeting last night at the Historical Society rooms.

Miss Evelyn Chase was elected vice president; Mrs. Phoebe Edmundson, secretary; Perry J. Sherman, treasurer; Mrs. Margaret Chase, librarian, and Dr. Burton W. Storrs, historian.

Elected to the board of directors are Bowden Broadwater, Mrs. Benjamin Hall, Miss S. Alice Birkett and Stanley Clarke.

## Portsmouth Unit Has Open House

Fifty visitors from Bristol, Swansea, Fall River, Tiverton, Middletown and Newport were among these attending the open house of the Portsmouth Historical Society yesterday at Historical Building to commemorate the anniversary of the Battle of Rhode Island.

Flowers were placed at the marker denoting the first skirmish of the battle at the site of the Historical Building.

Among the visitors was Mrs. Eddy, 85, of Swansea, a former member of the congregation of the old Union Church which is now Historical Building. Delegations were present from the Colonel William Barton Chapter, DAR, and the Portsmouth Garden Club. A gift of a wooden handmade bit stock, over 100 years old, was made to the society by William H. Brown.

Hostesses were Miss Evelyn B. Chase, vice president, Mrs. Phoebe Edmundson, Mrs. William A. Chase and Miss Virginia F. Farnham.

## Oldest in Rhode Island?

# Tiny Portsmouth Schoolhouse Last Used 80 Years Ago to 'Live' Again as Exhibit

### 'Old Gibbs School,' Used as Farm Shed, To Be Restored

By JAMES K. SUNSHINE and MRS. RUTH A. P. EARLE

A one-room schoolhouse in Portsmouth which was retired from active service more than 80 years ago, and which probably served the needs of local pupils for a half-century before that, is undergoing a face-lifting to fit it for a role as a prime exhibit for the Portsmouth Historical Society.

The gift of Herbert Hall, on whose Union Street farm the old structure stood for nearly a century, the school has been moved to a new site on society property north of the society's building at Union Street and East Main Road.

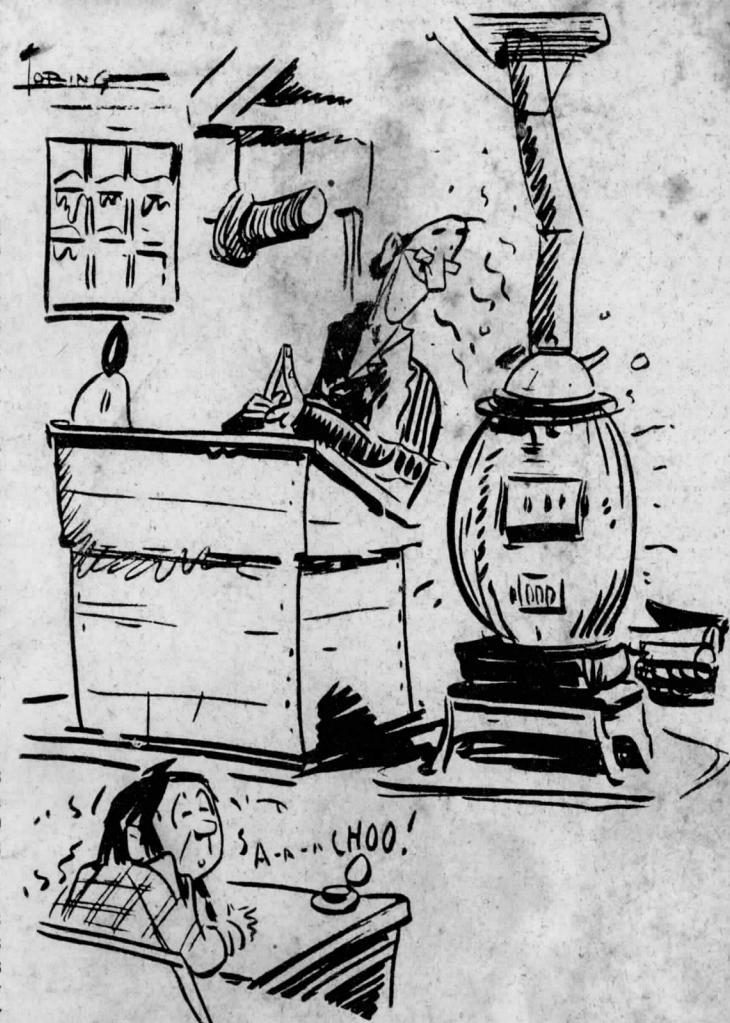
Construction of a foundation began yesterday at the new site. The society plans to restore the schoolhouse as close as possible to its original condition after replacing sills and strengthening the construction.

As far as Hall knows it has always been called "The Old Gibbs School." His family recalls it as a fixture on the farm as long as 80 years ago, and they believe it was probably there before that.

### Used As Shed

On the farm it has been used as a shed for harness, sheep bobbles and other agricultural implements of a former generation. The only mark reminiscent of the hickory rod and horn book world of long ago is the clear imprints along the walls of the pupils' desks, all but a few of which are now missing.

Originally the stoutly built little cabin stood on a site at the other end of Union Street known as the Gibbs land. A later Gibbs school, which apparently replaced it, was built across the street on Thurston land.



### See Unique Exhibit

As a whole the 20-foot structure is in remarkable shape, the carpenters say. Heavy oak pegs which support the roof tree and the main frame show no signs of rot. The hand wrought nails, patiently made one by one, are as stout as they ever were.

Once the old master's desk with

Gladys Boyle Cain.

A Revolutionary period sword, found at Fort Butts by Berkley Hall, and Edward Korsnesky was given by Mrs. Hall, and old-fashioned clothing was donated by the Gardner Sherman family.

Other old newspapers were given by Mrs. Howard Bailey and by William E. Ragsdale.

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#### CHURCH SUPPER

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Dr. Stephen B. Luce, president of the Newport Historical Society, addressed members of the Portsmouth Historical Society on the value of a historical society in a community at their meeting last night in Historical Building, East Main Road. J. Fred Sherman, president, conducted the meeting.

Dr. Luce stressed the importance of preserving old buildings and pointed out that many things taken for granted today will be lost to the next few generations if not preserved. He spoke of articles used in his own boyhood that are unknown today. Dr. Luce who is president of a Boston society for the preservation of antiques offered the assistance of both organizations if needed.

An early American book with wooden covers, published in 1805 was presented to the society by William Henry Brown of The Hummocks.

The program for the year's meetings was announced as follows: December, Old Time Christmas with speaker to be announced;

for a role as a prime exhibit to the Portsmouth Historical Society.

The gift of Herbert Hall, on whose Union Street farm the old structure stood for nearly a century, the school has been moved to a new site on society property north of the society's building at Union Street and East Main Road.

Construction of a foundation began yesterday at the new site. The society plans to restore the schoolhouse as close as possible to its original condition after replacing sills and strengthening the construction.

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Originally the stoutly built little cabin stood on a site at the other end of Union Street known as the Gibbs land. A later Gibbs school, which apparently replaced it, was built across the street on Thurston land.

The building is small and severe, a caustic reminder that masters and pupils two centuries ago got along with few of the frills modern education seems to consider essential.

#### Crudely Arched Ceiling

There was a single stove to fight the New England cold, a crudely arched ceiling, a few windows to bring in the sun and a cloakroom that provided space for wraps and room for a full swing of the master's hickory stick.

Charles and Herman Holman, Portsmouth carpenters, spent three weeks ripping out rotted sills and splintered corner posts. The bricks from the old chimney which hung precariously from the rafters have been carefully saved for a new model along the lines of the old one, and the immensely broad pine floorboards have been taken up and saved. All will be replaced once the frame is strengthened.



#### See Unique Exhibit

As a whole the 20-foot structure is in remarkable shape, the carpenters say. Heavy oak pegs which support the roof-tree and the main frame show no signs of rot. The hand wrought nails, patiently made one by one, are as stout as they ever were.

Once the old master's desk with its tilt top is brought in and once it is placed squarely in its old place nearest the stove, where the heat could do best by the one in authority, the society hopes to have a memory of education in Rhode Island that cannot be duplicated anywhere in the state.

# Portsmouth Historical Society



July 1949 - June 1950

*Fall River Herald* Oct. 1, 1951  
Society Meets

## At Portsmouth

A meeting of the Portsmouth Historical Society was held last night at the Historical Building with Col. Davis G. Arnold, Civilian Defense director, as the principal speaker.

### SOCIETY MEETS

The book length poem by Frances Frost, "Christmas Is Shaped Like a Star," was read by Rev. J. Donald Johnston, pastor of Channing Memorial Church, Newport, portraying the grandfather, and Mrs. Johnston, other characters, at the meeting of the Portsmouth Historical Society Wednesday night in Historical Building, East Main Road.

The singing of carols was led by Miss S. Alice Birkett with Miss Elizabeth Bellman at the piano.

At the business meeting, J. Fred Sherman, presiding, the gift of a collection of books published at the beginning of the 19th century and also the gift of a bookcase, both in memory of Dr. William F. Wright, were acknowledged. Mrs. Wright was the donor.

*Fall River Herald* News  
June 12, 1952  
Portsmouth Unit

## Renames Sherman

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Also elected were Miss Evelyn Chase, vice president; Mrs. Pho-

PORTSMOUTH

HISTORICAL SOCIETY



JULY 1950 — JUNE 1951

Oct. 6, 1952 *F.R. Herald* *Mercury*  
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# Program

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July 13, 1949

*Picnic*

Home of J. Fred Sherman

August 3, 1949

*Historical Pilgrimage*  
Salem, Mass.

August 28 - 29, 1949

*Open House*  
Historical Building



September 14, 1949

*Speaker*

Mrs. Broadwater

*New England through Western Eyes*

October 5, 1949

*Speaker*

Benjamin Ladd Cook  
*History of Fox Hunting*

November 2, 1949

*Speaker*

Mrs. George M. Simpson  
*Old Silver*

December 7, 1949

*Musical — Group Singing*  
Mrs. Jethro H. Peckham

January and February, 1950

Meetings omitted

March 1, 1950

*Speaker*

Waldo A. Sherman, *Genealogist*

April 5, 1950

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Albin Alberg

*Historic and Scenic America*  
Technicolor & Sound Motion Pictures

May 3, 1950

*Loan Exhibition*  
Glass

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Speaker — Waldo Sherman  
Sherman Family

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Anniversary of the Battle of Rhode Island  
Speaker — Armand Cote  
Secretary of State

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J. Fred Sherman and Benjamin Ladd Cook

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Speaker — Stanley D. Clarke  
Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes

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Speaker — Dr. Stephen B. Luce  
President, Newport Historical Society

## **December 6, 1950**

**Old Time Christmas**  
Speaker to be announced

## **January and February meetings omitted.**

## **March 7, 1951**

Speaker — Dr. Samuel Adelson

## **April 4, 1951**

2nd Genealogical Program  
**Early Portsmouth Families**

## **May 2, 1951**

Johnny Cake Supper

## **June 13, 1951**

**Annual Meeting**  
Reports and Election of Officers  
Loan Exhibit of Vases



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The business meeting was conducted by Vice President Miss Evelyn Chase. The school building committee reported on the progress in the restoration of the one-room school and announced the gift of some old wide boards needed to replace worn out flooring.

The program committee presented the program for the coming year. Gifts to be added to the Historical display were received from Mrs. Benjamin C. Reed, William H. Brown, J. Fred Sherman and Fred Cook. Three new members were admitted to the Society.

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Sen. J. Perry Sherman who declined reelection as treasurer offered to continue in the office until a successor was found.

The Nominating Committee comprised Mrs. Benjamin Hall, Miss Alice Birkett and Miss Virginia Farnham. Miss Birkett, spoke of Sandwich glass and exhibited a collection.

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## Portsmouth to Mark Battle of Rhode Island

Aug. 27, 1963  
The 175th anniversary of the Battle of Rhode Island will be marked by the Portsmouth Historical Society on Saturday with their annual open house from 2 to 6 P. M. in the Historical Building.

Miss Evelyn B. Chase, chairman of the committee, has announced that a loan exhibit of old glass will feature the occasion.

The date is a pertinent one for Portsmouth since the town was the contending ground for the battle, recognized as one of the hardest fought battles of the Revolution.

The first skirmish took place at the site of the Historical Building on East Main Road.

The public is invited to attend.

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*Fall River Herald*

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*Fall River Herald News*  
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The first skirmish took place at the site of the Historical Building on East Main Road.

The public is invited to attend.

# R. I. Battle Observed By Portsmouth Group

Fall River Herald

The Portsmouth Historical Society held its annual open house in the Historical Building Saturday, celebrating the 175th anniversary of the Battle of Rhode Island.

Hostesses in Colonial costume, Mrs. Benjamin Hall and Mrs. George White received more than 75 guests. Tours of the old Portsmouth school house were conducted by J. Fred Sherman, president of the society.

Miss Evelyn B. Chase, vice president, served as chairman of the committee. Exhibitors of old glass as a special feature of the day were Mrs. Clinton Copeland, sandwich glass; Mrs. Phoebe Edmundson, glass of several old-fashioned patterns and sandwich glass.

Miss S. Alice Birkett and Mrs. Thomas Hutchins, sandwich glass and various other classifications of old glass; Mrs. Benjamin Hall, painted sandwich glass; Mrs. H. Maton Chase and Mrs. Alfred Bryan, miscellaneous collection.

Miss Evelyn Chase and Mrs. William A. Chase, satin glass, blue milk glass, red block glass, and amberina glass among other kinds; Mrs. J. Fred Sherman, satin glass and milk glass with crystal pendants.

Mrs. Benjamin Hall was chairman for decorations which included many floral touches. Two old-fashioned vases with garden

flowers were donated by Charles E. Boyd.

Sept. 2 was announced as the tentative date for the annual historical pilgrimage, scheduled this year for Salem, Mass. J. Fred Sherman and Perry J. Sherman are in charge.

Refreshments were served on the south lawn by Mrs. J. Fred Sherman and Mrs. Mary McCain.

Fall River Herald - Oct 25, 1955  
WHIST COMMITTEE

Named to the whist committee for the card party to be given Nov. 5 in the Anthony School for the benefit of the Portsmouth Historical Society are the following:

Mrs. William A. Chase, chairman; Mrs. J. Fred Sherman, tables, cards and scores; Mrs. Mary D. McCain and Mrs. Phoebe Edmundson, candy.

Miss Gladys Doyle, prizes; Mrs. Thomas Hutchins, door prizes; Miss S. Alice Birkett, admissions; Mrs. Benjamin Hall, decorations; Mrs. Chase, punchers.

SUBURBAN

## Portsmouth Historians Hold Open House Tomorrow

Townspeople and others interested are invited to the Open House of the Portsmouth Historical Society to be held tomorrow afternoon at the Historical Building, East Main Road, corner of

Aquidneck Island, in 1877, cele-  
brating the centennial of the cap-

# Portsmouth Citizens Once Were Fined for Failure To Attend Town Meetings

F. P. Herald  
News  
11/5/55

Once upon a time Portsmouth citizens who did not attend a town meeting were fined a sum of two pounds and sixpence.

That was one of the many interesting facts about the Town Meeting form of government related by Town Clerk Arthur A. Sherman at the meeting of the Portsmouth Historical Society last night.

Sherman's talk went back to the inception of the Town Meeting in Portsmouth on May 13, 1638 when 13 citizens, all signers of the Portsmouth Compact, attended such a session to meetings of recent times.

Present day town meetings differ only in that financial and town meeting and election, which is a form of town meeting, are held at different times whereas at one time they were held on the same day with the election being held early in the day of the financial town meeting at the other side of the hall.

At 3 P. M. the financial town meeting, if not adjourned, would be interrupted to announce the closing of the polls.

It was recalled that before the present Town Hall was built in 1895 at a cost of \$5,000, exclusive of central heating, the building now housing the Fire Department was the Town Hall and that a potters' field and town pound were located on the same lot.

A town meeting in 1894 elected a committee to draw up plans and specifications for the new town hall and report back in town months. The committee did report back satisfactorily, and the town meeting subsequently elected another committee to erect the building.

### Remarkable Records

In telling of modern methods to preserve old records, Sherman noted the remarkable records in the Town Clerk's office including many original deeds which are in excellent condition. Except for a brief ten year period when some

of the Town Clerk's records were somewhat sketchy, the records are very complete, he said.

Sherman told of the handling by the Council at the present time of 12 separate funds established in the late 1800's for perpetual care of certain cemetery lots. Some lots are in public cemeteries and others are in small private cemeteries throughout the town. The \$100 fund allotted for the care is no longer sufficient to care for the lots as originally intended.

He also told of the recent Old Sturbridge Town Meeting which he, Miss Evelyn Chase, Vice President of the Society and Ernest F. Denomme attended.

President J. Fred Sherman presided at the business session when the secretary, Miss S. Alice Birkett, was instructed to write a newspaper the date regarding the sale of the Island of Aquidneck by the Indians.

### Island Sold

Town Clerk Sherman read from a true copy, printed in 1899, of the original records at the Town Hall stating that Conanicus and Miantonomi sold to William Coddington and his friends the Island for 40 fathoms of white beads.

Later the Narragansett sachems were paid 10 coats and 20 hoes with the agreement that they would "remove themselves from the island by the next Winter."

President Sherman will answer a communication from Leonard J. Pannagio of the Information Division of the Rhode Island Development Council relative to the date of the old school house on the Historical Society grounds. The town of Woodstock, Conn., claims its old school of 1748 to be the oldest in the country.

The gift of several old silk vests from Mrs. Helen Welsh of Cranston was received.

The December meeting will be an old fashioned Christmas party to be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Chase, Water Street.

Battle of Rhode Island

Thomas Hutchins, sandwich glass and various other classifications of old glass; Mrs. Benjamin Hall, painted sandwich glass; Mrs. H. Maton Chase and Mrs. Alfred Bryan, miscellaneous collection.

Miss Evelyn Chase and Mrs. William A. Chase, satin glass, blue milk glass, red block glass, and amberina glass among other kinds; Mrs. J. Fred Sherman, satin glass and milk glass with crystal pendants.

Mrs. Benjamin Hall was chairman for decorations which included many floral touches. Two old-fashioned vases with garden

ing:

Mrs. William A. Chase, chairman, Mrs. J. Fred Sherman, tables, cards and scores; Mrs. Mary D. McCain and Mrs. Phoebe Edmundson, candy.

Miss Gladys Doyle, prizes; Mrs. Thomas Hutchins, door prizes; Miss S. Alice Birkett, admissions; Mrs. Benjamin Hall, decorations; Mrs. Chase, punchers.

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## SUBURBAN

# Portsmouth Historians Hold Open House Tomorrow

Townspeople and others interested are invited to the Open House of the Portsmouth Historical Society to be held tomorrow afternoon at the Historical Building, East Main Road, corner of Union Street.

There will be a program presented at 3:30 which will feature a talk by Erich A. O'D. Taylor of Newport. He will discuss the Battle of Rhode Island and early Portsmouth.

The building will be open from 2 to 6 and punch and cookies will be served by Mrs. J. Fred Sherman and Mrs. Thurlow McCain.

The portrait of Mother Burke, recently granted the society by the Portsmouth Free Library Association on a permanent loan basis, will be on display.

Mother Burke, a resident of Bristol Ferry for many years, was mother of Mrs. Emaline Burke Eldridge who was secretary for Miss Sarah Jane Eddy. Miss Eddy, who painted the portrait which hung in the library for many years, gave the library the art room which has recently been converted into a children's reading room.

Aquidneck Island, in 1817, celebrated the centennial of the capture of British General Prescott at the Oving house on West Main Road, Portsmouth, just over the line from Middletown. The observance, which was at the house now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Ladd Cook, was attended by Governor and Mrs. Van Zandt, Generals George W. Cullum and James Wilson Grant and others. The program was under the auspices of the Providence Light Infantry Veteran Association. Professor Diman of Brown University gave the principal address. We are not familiar with the professor's address but we recall vividly the late John Herman Greene's description of his capture.

## Battle of Rhode Island Observance Planned

Free  
River  
Herald  
News 8/27/55

The Portsmouth Historical Society will hold Open House on Monday afternoon 2 to 6 to commemorate the Battle of Rhode Island. Miss Evelyn Chase, Society Vice President, is in charge.

President J. Fred Sherman

will serve as guide in the old school house at the rear of the Historical Building.

Volunteer workers are asked to be at the Building tomorrow at 1 to prepare the rooms for the Open House.

Avenue.

So many people, we find, usually tie in Newport's early history with the War of the Revolution and the Declaration of Independence, and forget that Newport's history covers almost 150 years preceding the founding of the United States of America.

The original Colony House was used for meetings and other public purposes as far back as 1695. In 1761 the death of George II and the accession of George III of England were proclaimed from the new Colony House balcony. That event was to Newporters of that period what the death of a President would be now.

A reader tells us that the 50-year-old novel "Alice Brenton" by Marie Josephine Gale—a story of a waif picked up at the edge of the shore, the only survivor of a wrecked ship—covers a pretty complete history of "Hammersmith Farm," so much in the news because of the visit there of President and Mrs. Kennedy. The book about the Revolutionary War is good reading. It is full of mystery, intrigue and romance. Our reader wonders how many Newporters are familiar with the importance of the area and whether school children know the story of Alice Brenton of Hammersmith.

THE NEWS—NEWPORT, R. I., TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1955

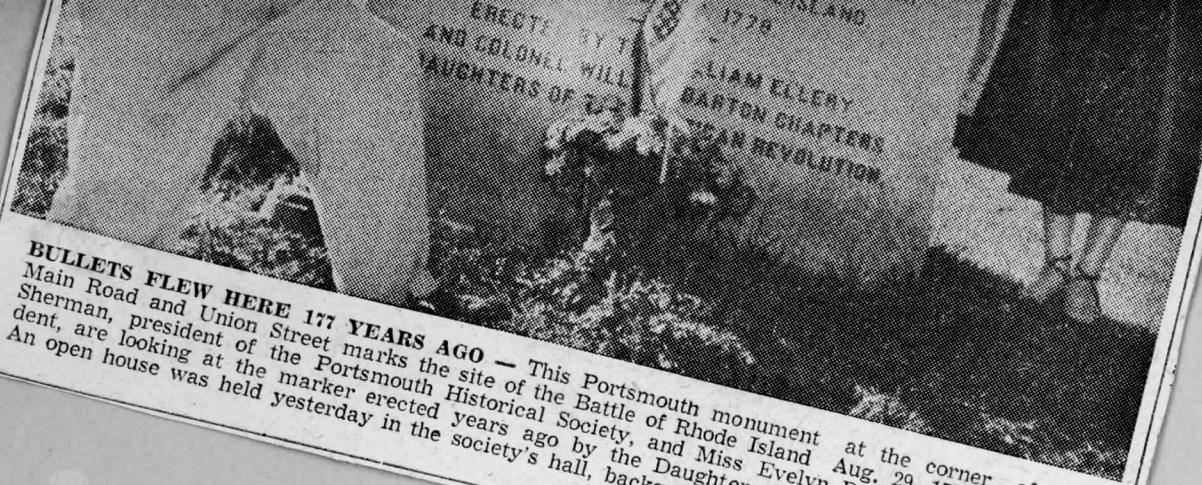


**BULLETS FLEW HERE 177 YEARS AGO** — This Portsmouth monument at the corner of East Main Road and Union Street marks the site of the Battle of Rhode Island Aug. 29, 1778. J. Fred Sherman, president of the Portsmouth Historical Society, and Miss Evelyn B. Chase, vice president, are looking at the marker erected years ago by the Daughters of the American Revolution. An open house was held yesterday in the society's hall, background, to mark the anniversary.

(Daily News Photo)

## Historic Metal Ware Shown In Portsmouth

The annual open house of the Portsmouth Historical Society yesterday afternoon was well attended by visitors who viewed the interior of the Society's building, the old school house and the loan exhibit of old metal ware.



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Among the items shown were fire tongs, candlesticks, andirons, warming pans, candle snuffers, button molds and porringers. Miss Evelyn Chase, hostess for the afternoon, exhibited a collection of iron and bronze horses, many of which had been ornaments on stoves and clocks. Mrs. Peter Carr showed pewter; Mrs. Victor Carr, copper; President J. Fred Sherman, brass and copper; Mrs. William A. Chase, brass; Mrs. Rudolph Almy, brass; Mrs. William P. Macomber, Jr., pewter; Alfred Hall, copper. Mrs. J. Fred Sherman and Mrs. Mary McCain served refreshments.

# Historical Society Marks 100th Year; Early Days Traced; Bequest Revealed

The Newport Historical Society observed its centennial with special exercises Tuesday afternoon and evening, following the annual meeting in the historic Sabbatarian meeting house auditorium, with historical displays in the showcases, library and museums.

Speakers were Lloyd A. Robson, who drew a picture of Newport as it was in 1853; Justice Hugh Barkly Baker, on highlights of the society's 100 years; and in the evening, Bradford F. Swan of Providence, on the beginnings of the press in Newport, 1727 to 1750.

All officers headed by Sydney L. Wright, and including the late William H. Harvey, first vice president, renamed only a few hours before his death, were re-elected. Others are William MacLeod and Roger P. Braman, vice presidents; John H. Greene Jr., corresponding secretary; Ralph O. Udall, treasurer; Frank M. Greenlaw, recording secretary; Herbert D. Brigham, librarian; Dr. Stephen B. Luce, curator of coins and medals; Col. George H. Bowley, marine museum curator; Marion R. Hazard, Wanton-Lyman-

Hazard House curator; Mrs. William W. Covell, Charles P. B. Jefferys, Comdr. Benjamin B. McCormick and Lloyd Robson, directors for three years; Greene, Jr., delegate for five years to the Gen. Nathaniel Greene Memorial Association.

Dr Stanley Hart, Miss Susan B. Franklin and Irvin T. Henshaw were the nominating committee.

A \$9,900 bequest from the Mrs. James S. Cushman estate was announced by Wright, who reported another to come from the Mrs. W. H. Williams estate. The unestimated Williams gift is expected to be the largest one to be received by the society.

Plans by MacLeod for by-laws revision were announced by Wright who reported that Dr. Bruce Bigelow, historian, has agreed to give advice and counsel on material handling.

The large assemblage, overflowing into the balcony, paid tribute to the memory of 12 members who have died since the last annual meeting. They were Graham Adee, Mrs. Philip Caswell, Mrs. Marion Eppley, Mrs. Charles

A. Hambly, Mrs. William R. Harvey, A. Livingston Hunt, H. Leroy Jones, Mrs. Robert Peaslee, Edward Potter, Frank F. Rogers, Mrs. W. H. Williams and Claude D. Wood.

Newport of 100 years ago was revealed by Robson as just at the beginning of the long period of prosperity caused by the discovery of its charms as a summer resort. Having added only 300 residents in 75 years, the community more than doubled in population between 1850 and 1853. It became a city in 1853, and began to lose its colonial aspect.

It was Alfred Smith, Robson reported, who began the development of the island's real wealth-climate, ocean, harbor, beaches, scenery and fertile earth. This resulted in throngs of fashionable summer visitors who sailed their yachts into the harbor, bought quantities of goods in local stores, frolicked on the beaches and dotted the streets with their fashionable turnouts. Land values soared as a result.

In 1853 there was no piped water, no public sewers, no central heating, no board of health, no adequate plumbing, and very poor transportation. There was a small police force, a volunteer fire department, a good health record and the labor picture was good. Cultural activities flourished.

## Women Admitted in 1881

Financial problems and periods of apathy as well as of lively interest and growth figured in Justice Baker's account of a century of society history. The actual organization was an outgrowth of the state organization's move to house historic relics in two cabinets, one in Providence and one in Newport, with a keeper appointed for each site. Many of the 50 incorporators who received the charter from the legislature were antecedents of present members, he noted. It was not until 1881 that women were admitted, however.

The old Sabbatarian Baptist Church, unused then for 40 years, was bought for \$800 and restored in 1881. It was moved in 1884 from Barney Street to Touro Street, when the present lot was purchased for \$7,000. An addition, found necessary to house the growing collection, was completed in 1902. In 1915 further enlargement was undertaken, with the church auditorium moved back and the building completed as it now stands.

Historical shrines, which

The Rev. James Honyman's 176-page work, a plea for unity in religion, was probably the first book published in Rhode Island, the speaker said. A 600-page book by Dean Berkeley was the most ambitious work undertaken by Franklin.

His widow, Ann Franklin, an exceptionally, capable woman, carried on the work after his death. She was aided by a son, James, who served an apprenticeship with his uncle, Benjamin, and on his death by a partner, Samuel Hall.

"We think of men and women of a bygone age as being busy over religious trivialities," said Swan, "but we reveal ourselves to posterity . . . by our comic books, amours of Hollywood stars, and baseball pages."

Pouring at the afternoon reception were Mrs. Robert H. Baker and Mrs. Poyntell Staley, and in the evening Mrs. Donald T. Gibbs and Mrs. Herbert O. Brigham. Mrs. Sydney L. Wright cut anniversary birthday cakes on both occasions. Ushers included Mrs. John H. Greene Jr., Mrs. Nathan A. Estes, Miss Katharine Manchester, Miss Majel Parmenter, Miss Ruth Thomas and Mrs. Charles H. Lyman.

William MacLeod headed the centennial committee, assisted by Mrs. Edward A. Sherman, Mrs. Maitland Armstrong, Miss Ruth B. Franklin, Mrs. Harold Brown, Brigham, Greene, Robson, Udall, William K. Covell and Justice Baker.

Count gave credit for promoting the Society's welfare were Dr. David King, first president; Benjamin B. Howland, town and city clerk for over 50 years and its librarian; George C. Mason and George C. Mason 3rd; Nathan H. Gould, Benjamin B. Rhodes, Hon. Francis Brinley, Dr. Henry B. Turner, Risbrough Hammatt Tilley and his daughter, Miss Edith May Tilley; Daniel E. Fearing, Dr. Roderick Terry, Robert S. Franklin, Lloyd M. Mayer and Dr. Stephen B. Luce.

A lively story of James Franklin's press ventures, first in Boston and then in Newport, where he arrived in the midst of a doctrinal ferment, was told by Swan, the Providence bibliographer. Controversies and debates on many points of contention were aired by the disputants in printed tracts, which the speaker found revealing of what was paramount in the minds of the people. In addition almanacs, personal statements, an

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B. Luce, curator of coins and  
medals; Commo. George H. Bow-  
ley, marine museum curator;  
Revon R. Hazard, Wanton-Lyman-  
Mrs. Marion Eppley, Mrs. Charles

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Historical shrines which came  
under the society's care in the  
very active 1920's were the Butts  
Hill site in Portsmouth, Green's  
Hill in Middletown, the Wanton-  
Lyman-Hazard House, Fort Bar-  
ton in Tiverton and the Ports-  
mouth windmill.

Among those to whom the ac-

Mrs. Edward A. Sherman, Mrs. c  
Maitland Armstrong, Miss Ruth B. a  
Franklin, Mrs. Harold Brown, V  
Brigham, Greene, Robson, Udall, n  
William K. Covell and Justice a  
Baker. R

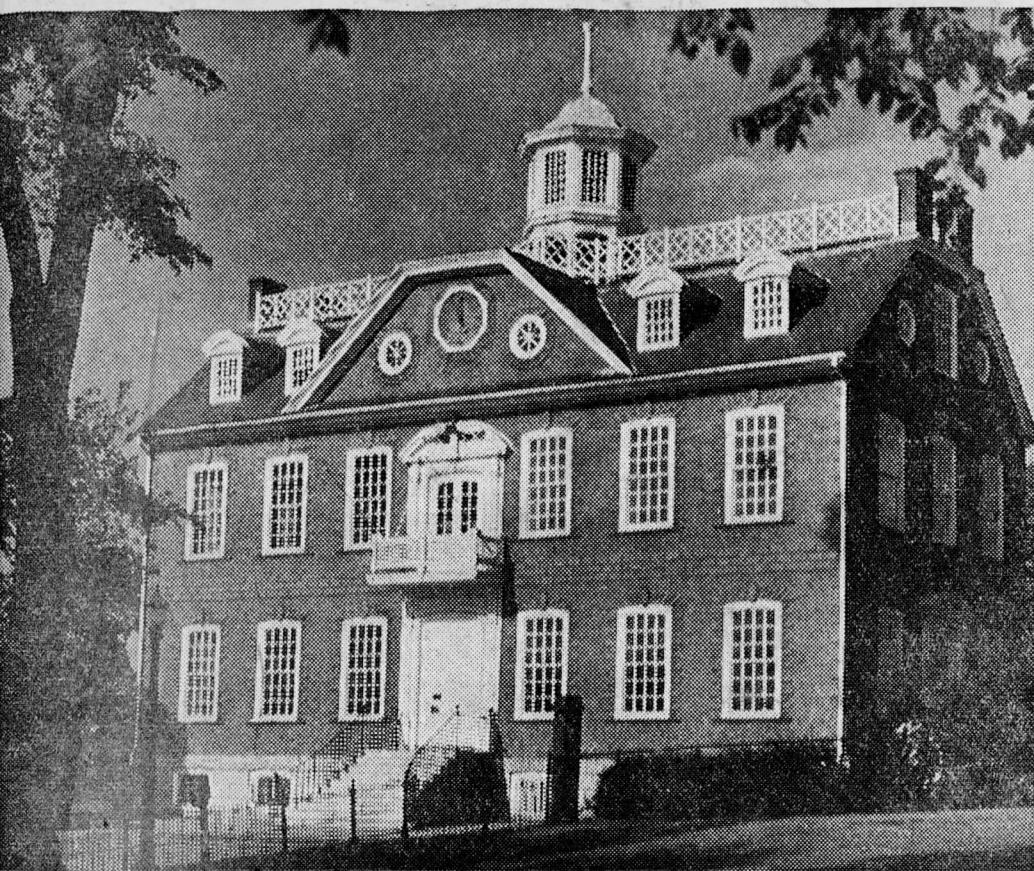
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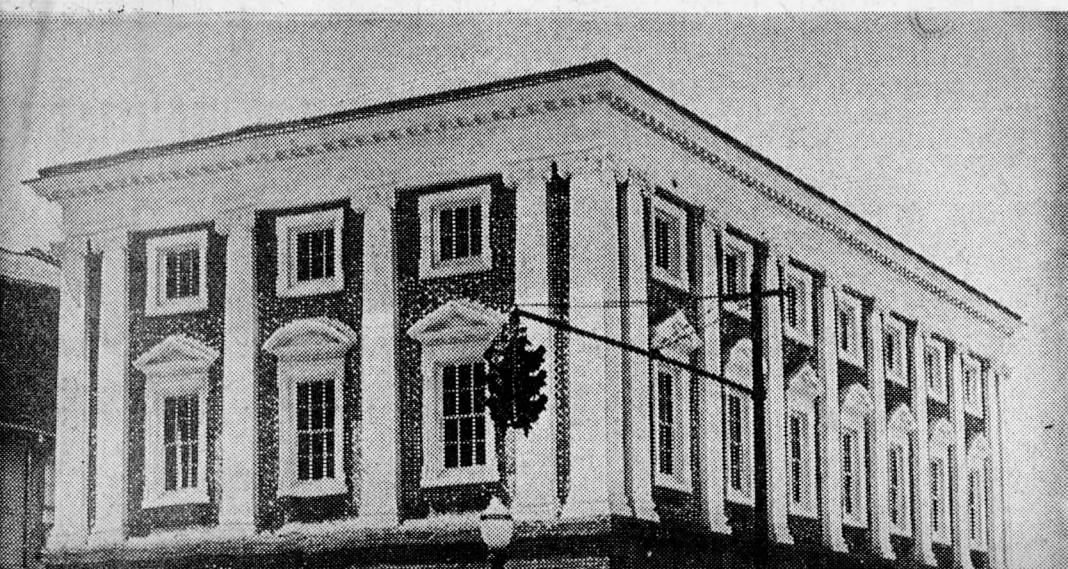
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Colony House



## Eligible for National Registry

# 5 Historic Sites Recognized

By FREDERIC W. COLLINS

*Journal-Bulletin Washington Bureau*

Washington — Five Rhode Island structures, one in Providence and four in Newport, have been recognized as historic landmarks of national significance and interest and may be registered as such by the National Park Service, it was disclosed yesterday.

They are the First Baptist Meeting House, Providence, and in Newport, the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House, the Brick Market, the Old Colony House, and the Redwood Library. The Touro Synagogue in Newport, it was noted, is already a National Historic Site.

Senator John O. Pastore was notified of the action yesterday by Secretary of the Interior Seaton.

Those in charge of such sites who choose to register them will obtain certificates and official markers, and gain inclu-

sion in the National Registry of Historic Landmarks. They agree to certain standards of a suitable marker. Participation is voluntary.

The national registry is designed to recognize and endorse the preservation and protection of structures and sites now administered by the states, and other public agencies, or historical societies, and to encourage private owners of historic landmarks to maintain such properties.

"The establishment of this registry," Mr. Seaton said, "serves a long-felt need for federal government to give moral support and recognition to organizations now concerned with the preservation of archeological and historic properties. Because of the number it is manifestly impossible for the government to acquire or manage these sites or support them financially."

The federal role, Mr. Seaton said, will be limited to the issuance of the certificates, pe-

riodic inspection, and arrangements for the owner to acquire a suitable marker. Participation is voluntary.

He pointed out that the registry will give tourists and students a list of the more important among the large number of landmarks in this country.

The criterion is that such places "possess exceptional value as commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States." Recommendations are made by an advisory board and passed upon by the secretary of the interior.

The program is part of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings of the National Park Service. The survey is cataloging the sites within themes covering the major periods of human history in this country. Many sites are studied, the Interior Department said, but only a few are designated as having "exceptional value."

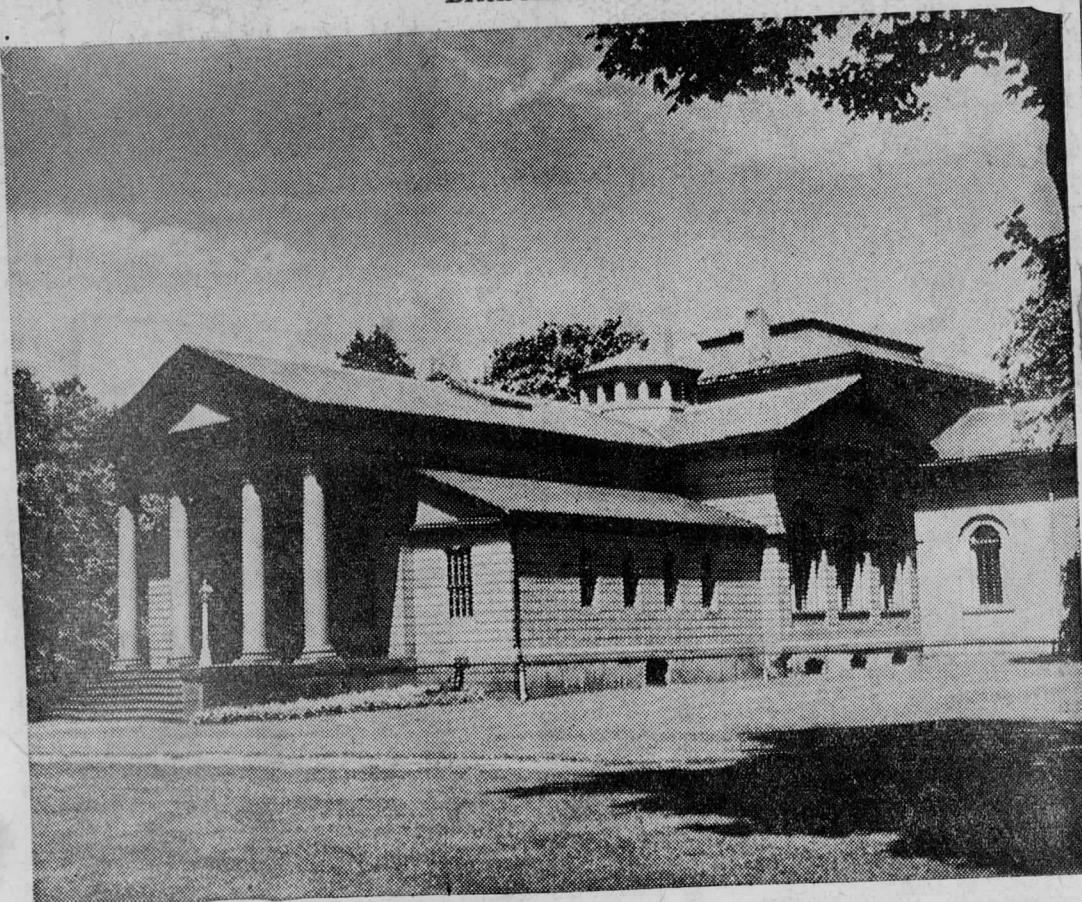




**Brick Market**



**Wanton-Lyman-Hazard-House**



**Redwood Library**



**NEW STUDY OF MYSTERIOUS TOWER** — Arlington H. Mallory, center, of Columbus, Ohio, a scholar who maintains that Newport's Old Stone Mill was built by Celtic Irish in pre-Columbian days, views structure today with Herbert O. Brigham, left, Newport Historical Society librarian. At right, behind Mallory, is Gardner C. Easton, local civil engineer, who was engaged by Mallory to make exact professional measurements of the tower.

(Daily News Photo)

## Old Stone Mill Held Built By Celtic Irish Before 1350

The Old Stone Mill is definitely a pre-Columbus structure and was probably built by Celtic Irish before 1350 A. D. after they were chased out of a St. Lawrence River valley settlement by the Vikings.

This was the positive statement made today by Arlington H. Mallory of Columbus, Ohio, an engineer and archaeologist who has just completed measurements on Newport's mysterious tower with the aid of Gardner C. Easton, local civil engineer.

Mallory, who proposed the Celtic Irish origin of the tower in his book, "Lost America," published in 1951, arrived in Newport yesterday, having made advance arrangements with Easton to take, for the first time, professionally exact readings on the tower's dimensions.

Given permission today to enter the tower enclosure in Touro Park by Recreation Director George D. Donnelly, the experts were accompanied by Herbert O. Brigham, Newport Historical Society librarian, and Gardner C. Easton, local civil engineer.

about three hours. Convinced more than ever of the pre-Columbian history of the tower, Mallory left for Boston to report his latest findings to officials at Harvard University.

Built originally as a church under direction of learned priests, the tower, according to Mallory, was converted to a mill after 1675 by Peter Easton, who coincidentally was the ancestor of Gardner Easton, today's measurer. Peter's mill had burned down and he cut beam holes in the tower's original masonry to accommodate the heavy load of his mill machinery, Mallory declares.

"There are no ifs, ands or buts about it," the Ohioan said this noon, adding that he did not see how earlier students have failed to grasp this theory.

Today's measurements carried out Mallory's contentions, made prior to his initial visit to Newport, that the tower is not perfectly round. He found that its diameters

### Old Stone Mill

(Continued from Page 1)

Easton cut new holes to support his machinery, resting the load atop the column piers.

In addition, Easton dug a trench around the structure in order to underpin the columns, which was necessary because of the new added weight of the milling devices, Mallory said. While digging, some of the original plaster from the outside of the mill fell into the excavations. This mortar was uncovered during the Godfrey investigations.

If the tower had originally been built for a mill, it would have been laid up in a different manner, the visitor said. No miller would have had a fireplace, since the danger of explosion in the grist would have been great. Moreover, the Vikings laid dry masonry, while the Celts were using mortar, he said.

#### Made Adjustments

Nor would the Eastons have originally built a mill on Gov. Benedict Arnold's land, Mallory said. Since the old stone structure was not perfectly round, Easton had to make adjustments to get his machinery

The Ohioan holds that the first Celtic settlement in the New World probably pre-dated the Vikings by 1,300 years. He has found iron-working furnaces in the Midwest and elsewhere which he ascribes to the earliest settlers. Traces of the Celtic tongue are found in the language of the Algonquin Indians, Mallory points out.

An industrial and structural engineer, navigator and cartographer, Mallory divides his time between Ohio and Washington, D.C. In World War I, he was an Army engineer overseeing coastal fortifications in the East. He was in New Guinea during World War I, making reports to the Smithsonian Institution, and had the rank of captain in the Army Transport Service.

Many of the archaeological ideas which he advances have been set forth before and, as is customary in such controversial matters, have found their share of opponents. New scientific methods of investigation, particularly in the field of metallurgy, help to bolster his theory, Mallory said.

He wove a fascinating tale of the prehistorical ages on this continent and showed himself familiar with Newport history of the colonial era. He has been busy with his researches for 25 years.

Among Mallory's historical evidences are maps of pre-Columbian date, which he has studied with the aid of the U. S. Navy Hydrographic Office in Washington. The Bureau of Standards, museums here and abroad, and various laboratories have cooperated with him.

An ancestor of the Ohioan was Robert Mallory, who captained New Haven troops in the King Philip War of colonial days. He is familiar with previous studies of the tower and has consulted with authors on the subject. But he stressed he was after "the facts" and did not want to enter into controversy with those who have different opinions about the structure.

The tower, mill, grain-shed or church—whatever it may be—has occupied the attention of scholars all over the world for more than a century. The current trend of investigations in recent years, including those of Godfrey, has been toward declaring the structure was put up in colonial days. Newporters have been divided on the origin but are always ready to study new findings about this city's favorite mystery.

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While the wind and rain lashed the venerable tower early last night, Mallory sat in his room at the Hotel Viking and told a Daily News reporter of his researches into the pre-Columbian history of America, as outlined in his published volume. His most recent findings will go into a second volume.

An Irish settlement known as Albania or Vitramannaland on the shores of the St. Lawrence River was a Christian colony which fell prey to semi-pagan Vikings from Greenland, Mallory believes. The Irish scattered, coming south along the coast.

Mallory has examined nails which were taken from excavations made at the Old Stone Mill by William S. Godfrey Jr. in 1948. He feels the nails are of pre-Columbian make, and that they were probably heat-treated by a carburization method, which would not have been necessary for hard nails of colonial days.

After the Eastons' mill was destroyed in 1675, emergency use was made of the existing stone tower, Mallory states positively.

## Old Stone Mill

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Easton cut new holes to support his machinery, resting the load atop the column piers.

In addition, Easton dug a trench around the structure in order to underpin the columns, which was necessary because of the new added weight of the milling devices, Mallory said. While digging, some of the original plaster from the outside of the mill fell into the excavations. This mortar was uncovered during the Godfrey investigations.

If the tower had originally been built for a mill, it would have been laid up in a different manner, the visitor said. No miller would have had a fireplace, since the danger of explosion in the grist would have been great. Moreover, the Vikings laid dry masonry, while the Celts were using mortar, he said.

### Made Adjustments

Nor would the Eastons have originally built a mill on Gov. Benedict Arnold's land, Mallory said. Since the old stone structure was not perfectly round, Easton had to make adjustments to get his machinery in place.

The immediate reason for Mallory's visit was the measurements, since he said no professional engineer had ever taken readings on the tower before. Existing sets of figures show widely differing dimensions, Mallory said.

Metalurgical examinations of copper and iron tools found on this continent have shown Mallory that Europeans were here before Columbus, forging metal by long-forgotten processes. Among the methods was the powder-metallurgy principle, which was in use by the Egyptians and Incas, became a "lost art" and is now an important field of study, Mallory related.

An iron age civilization was thus existing in America prior to the culture of the Stone Age Indians who greeted Columbus, Mallory believes. The earlier peoples were probably decimated by the "black death" plagues, he said.

### Pre-dated Vikings

He wove a fascinating tapestry of the prehistoric ages on this continent and showed himself familiar with Newport history of the colonial era. He has been busy with his researches for 25 years.

Among Mallory's historical evidences are maps of pre-Columbian date, which he has studied with the aid of the U. S. Navy Hydrographic Office in Washington. The Bureau of Standards, museums here and abroad, and various laboratories have cooperated with him.

An ancestor of the Ohioan was Robert Mallory, who captained New Haven troops in the King Philip's War of colonial days. He is familiar with previous studies of the tower and has consulted with authors on the subject. But he stressed he was after "the facts" and did not want to enter into controversy with those who have different opinions about the structure.

The tower, mill, grain-shed or church—whatever it may be—has occupied the attention of scholars all over the world for more than a century. The current trend of investigations in recent years, including those of Godfrey, has been toward declaring the structure was put up in colonial days. Newporters have been divided on the origin but are always ready to study new findings about this city's favorite mystery.

## Historic Shrines To Be Designated

Dr. Murray Nelligan of the National Parks System of the Department of the Interior will be in Newport Friday to present certificates designating the Brick Market and the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard house as historic shrines.

At 2 p.m. the Brick Market certificate will be presented to the city in the office of Mayor Charles A. Hamby. At 3 o'clock, Dr. Nelligan will go to the Newport Historical Society to make a presentation, to it as owns the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard house on Broadway at Stone Street.

## More Digging at Old Stone Tower Recommended by Archaeologist

**Godfrey Reports That Newport Excavations of Past Summer Are Inconclusive, But Declares Search for Structure's Origin Nears End**

Renewal of excavations about Newport's famed Old Stone Tower to locate the annular trench which the builders dug to receive the columns and the original construction level were recommended by William S. Godfrey in his first report to the Preservation Society of Newport County last night.

Godfrey, noted archaeologist was retained by the special archaeological committee headed by Dr. John S Brew of the Peabody Museum, Harvard University, to conduct excavations this past summer in an effort to learn the original construction of the tower.

There are two theories, one that it was a colonial grist mill built around 1670 and later owned by colonial Gov. Benedict Arnold, the other that it was built by the Norsemen around 1100.

Nothing that Godfrey found this summer has shed any light on the origin.

Godfrey started at a point 78 feet southeast of the tower and dug to d across the base of the tower, at e point digging around one of the supporting columns.

Here he believes he struck a section of the annular trench which leads him to believe that it was 12 feet wide by four feet deep. He believes the trench was contemporary with the tower's construction but it revealed no artifacts.

"It would have given us positive proof of the date of the builder had we been able to find an identifiable object in this trench.

"The next problem was to establish a construction level. A postulate well supported by archaeology both in Europe and colonial America, is that builders leave a floor of debris around a structure which can be identified. This floor would contain reject and waste material from the building, which in this case would be plaster lumps and chips of stone. (No brick, metal or other substance has yet been associated with the original structure itself.) Especially around the columns, there should be many small flakes of gray slate, the most common stone in the columns and the one which shows the most trace of reworking, but

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## Newport The Old Stone Mill Question News

The excellent report prepared by a civil engineer on the Old Stone Mill in Touro Park has opened up a realm of new ideas on when it was constructed.

Edward Adams Richardson of Bethlehem, Pa., disregarded many of the tales and tackled the problem of establishing the date of its origin with a fresh approach. He said he felt sure attention had to be given to the builder of the tower, whoever he may have been, whenever he may have lived. He noted that the tower itself is that man's monument and his work, and he felt that the tower itself could be questioned effectively for the answer to the question, "When was it built?" Richardson searched for the knowledge and skill which the builder must have possessed by checking the stones in it and by commanding all the resources of his own engineering skill and knowledge to come up with the theory that

it was built prior to the year 1400.

Richardson's report is accompanied by geometrical designs analysing the first and second floor window openings to show the rays and proposed sailing courses. The entire report shows that he spent a great deal of time and effort before coming up with the suggestion that the Old Stone Mill proves it was part of a "sophisticated signalling and ship guidance system characteristic of the 14th century."

The civil engineer prepared his report and asked for the opinions of his contemporaries in the American Society of Civil Engineers. It will be interesting to hear their views and deductions after reading the brilliant paper of Richardson.

Whether we agree with the claim of Mr. Richardson or not, one thing is certain. He has opened up again a subject in which all Newporters are interested and which they love to have aired.