

The Hinterlander

Western Rhode Island Civic & Historical Society
September 2011



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Membership

Dorothy Pogonowski
397-7801

Dear Members,

In this month's newsletter there are the proposed changes to the by laws. These changes will be voted on at the October meeting. The changes consist of changing the payment of dues to the anniversary date of members. This would not change for those that already are members and only applies to new members. Everyone on the membership list at this time will remain with an anniversary date of July. Any new members will be responsible for payment of dues on their anniversary date. The purpose for this change is that we are computerizing our membership list. It is easier to track with the software when we enter the date of joining for new members. The software notifies the membership committee of when their dues would be due.

We have also recombined buildings and grounds. It had been thought that it would be easier for the buildings and grounds to be separated as it is a big job for a volunteer committee to handle both. We have now decided that these two committees would work best as one committee.

Most of the changes have to do with eliminating the building committee and rejoining it with grounds. It changed the number of committees and these number changes need to be voted on.

We also think that the annual meeting should come at the end of the year, not in the middle. We have had a busy year and it is thought that a change in the slate of officers and committees should not come in the middle of an active event year like we had this year. It is felt that each office and committee should be able to complete the projects they start during a calendar year. With nominations in October and elections in November, the new year would begin with the new slate of officers and committees to begin planning over the winter months for the new year of events.

We have a list of the events scheduled for the fall. We need member participation in the area of providing refreshments for the Annual Peace Day ceremony on September 24, both book signings; one on October 4, the second on October 14 and also for the fund raising event on November 5. If you would like to bake something for these events or choose to buy something to donate contact Sandy at 821-2444.

We have some new exciting things happening. For Heritage Day we have a new local talent coming to sing. Jenna Sousa will be with us from 12-2. She has signed with a major artist Los Angeles and is on her way to becoming one of the next new singing stars. She will sing and meet with the people of our area. On Friday, September 23, Channel 10 will be filming a segment on RISEUP Paranormal group at the Paine House. We are not sure of the date this film will be aired, but we will record it so we can have a copy in our archives. We also have added a fundraising event with local celebrity Dave Kane.

Next meeting
September 27, 2011
Paine House
7 PM

Mission Statement

The purpose of this Society shall be the "gathering and preserving early and present day historical materials relating to the western area of Rhode Island; providing for the accessibility of such materials as far as may be feasible to teachers, school pupils and the public cooperating, with Churches, granges, patriotic organizations and schools, and promoting the social and cultural life of the area."

Revisions to By Laws

To be voted on at the October Meeting

Article IV Section 3: All dues shall be payable on or before the month of July. Dues that have not been paid at the end a six (6) month period are deemed in arrears. Any member, who fails to pay annual dues, after a six month period, shall be automatically dropped from the Society.

To be changed to: Section 3. All dues shall be payable on or before the members anniversary date. Dues that have not been paid at the end a six (6) month period are deemed in arrears. Any member, who fails to pay annual dues, after a six month period, shall be automatically dropped from the Society.

Article VI, section 8: **The Museum Committee**, shall consist of at least three (3) active members who are appointed by the President. The Museum committee shall be responsible for scheduled openings of the Paine House; and shall oversee maintenance and repair of any and all artifacts and documents. The committee shall serve as custodian of the Museum (Paine House); and shall have charge of all items in the museum collection, maintain an inventory of the items, including a duplicate file of all such items and one copy of which shall be kept in a safe deposit box.

To be changed to: Section 8. **The Museum Committee**, shall consist of a chairperson who is appointed by the President. The chairperson shall choose the members of his/her committee. The Museum committee shall be responsible for scheduled openings of the Paine House; and shall oversee maintenance and repair of any and all artifacts and documents. The committee shall serve as custodian of the Museum (Paine House); and shall have charge of all items in the museum collection, maintain an inventory of the items, including a duplicate file of all such items and one copy of which shall be kept in a safe deposit box

Article VI, section 10 and 11: Section 10. The **Grounds Committee** shall be responsible for the repair and maintenance of the Paine House property and grounds itself, excluding the Paine House structure and other edifices on said property. Section 11. The **Building Committee** shall be responsible for the repair and maintenance of the Paine House and related buildings themselves, excluding any duties and responsibilities which come under the jurisdiction of the Grounds Committee. (i.e., Building Committee cares for and repairs the Society's buildings; and the Grounds Committee cares for a d repairs any non-structural/undeveloped property.)

To be changed to: Section 10. The Buildings and **Grounds Committee** shall be responsible for the repair and maintenance of the Paine House property and grounds.

Article VI, section 12: The **Program Committee** shall be responsible for arranging suitable programs. It shall work in cooperation with the Board of Directors.

To be changed to Section 11. Section 11. The **Program Committee** shall be responsible for arranging suitable programs. It shall work in cooperation with the Board of Directors.

Article VI , section 13: Section 13. The **Nominating Committee** shall present a slate of officers at the June Meeting and shall present its formal nominations at the Annual Meeting in July. Nominations may also be made from the floor by members at this meeting.

To be changed to section 12. Section 12. The **Nominating Committee** shall present a slate of officers at the October Meeting and shall present its formal nominations at the Annual Meeting in November. Nominations may also be made from the floor by members at this meeting.

Article VI, Section 14. **Ways and Means shall** schedule and plan non-meeting events and/or fundraising. This committee should have at least three (3) committee members. Funds raised by this committee shall be and deposited into the general fund of the Society.

To be changed to. Section 13. **Ways and Means shall** schedule and plan non-meeting events and/or fundraising. This committee should have at least three (3) committee members. Funds raised by this committee shall be and deposited into the general fund of the Society.

Article VI, Section 14. Other Committees of the Society shall have such powers and duties as may be assigned to them from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Changed to VI, Section 15. Other Committees of the Society shall have such powers and duties as may be assigned to them from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Article VI, Section 16. Each Committee must present a report, in writing, at the Annual Meeting describing its accomplishments during the past year and plans for the future.

To be changed to: Section 15. Each Committee must present a report, in writing, at the Annual Meeting describing its accomplishments during the past year and plans for the future.

Article VI, Section 17. All contracts, mortgages, leases, deeds, transfers and other conveyance of real or personal property of the Society shall be executed by the Board of Directors when authorized by vote of the Society, but no such vote shall be taken at any meeting unless notice of the proposed action shall be included in the notice of said meeting which shall be delivered not less than seven (7) days prior to the date of such meeting.

To be changed to. Section 16. All contracts, mortgages, leases, deeds, transfers and other conveyance of real or personal property of the Society shall be executed by the Board of Directors when authorized by vote of the Society, but no such vote shall be taken at any meeting unless notice of the proposed action shall be included in the notice of said meeting which shall be delivered not less than seven (7) days prior to the date of such meeting.

Article VI, Section 18. **Term Limits.** No officer shall serve more than three (3) consecutive one year terms, unless otherwise voted by The Western Rhode Island Civic Historic Society's membership or the circumstances determine such.

To be changed to. Section 17. **Term Limits.** No officer shall serve more than three (3) consecutive one year terms, unless otherwise voted by The Western Rhode Island Civic Historic Society's membership or the circumstances determine such.

Events October and November 2011

Smithsonian Museum Day

Saturday, September 24 · 10:00am - 4:00pm

Paine House Museum

In the spirit of Smithsonian Museums, who offer free admission everyday, Museum Day is an annual event hosted by Smithsonian magazine in which participating museums across the country open their doors to anyone presenting a Museum Day Ticket...for free.

This is the second year Paine House Museum has participated in this program. Stop in to see our collection and also the house that has evolved from colonial time to the house that exists today.

3rd Annual Peace Day Ceremony

Saturday, September 24 · 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Paine House Museum

The International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. It was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981 to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly.

We invite you to observe a Peace Day celebration with us. There will be a Native American Peace Ceremony with music and refreshments to follow. This will also be an opportunity to see the Paine House Museum as it will be open as part of the Smithsonian Museum Day from 10 - 4.

May Peace Prevail On Earth

Food For the Dead: On the Trail of New England's Vampires, book signing

Tuesday, October 4 · 7:00 - 9:00 PM

New England Bay Retirement Center

600 Center of New England Blvd., Coventry, RI

Folklorist Michael E. Bell suggests that our local ancestors unearthed loved ones in a desperate effort to cure tuberculosis. This New England tour of vampire sites focuses on his native Rhode Island, but includes a recently discovered New Hampshire case as well. Bell, who has a Ph.D. in folklore has been consultant to the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission since 1980.

Join us for an evening with Michael as he discusses the his book with a new preface that includes updates to the book that originally was published in 2001. There is also information on new cases in this new edition.

House of Darkness House of Light, book signing with author Andrea Perron

Friday, October 14 · 7:00 - 9:00 PM

New England Bay Retirement Center

600 Centre of New England Blvd., Coventry, RI

After thirty years of keeping this story strictly to themselves, the Perron family has finally divulged a closely-guarded secret. The saga has been released to the public in the form of a trilogy. It is a collective memoir; one that chronicles the numerous events which occurred in our home between 1970 and 1980

Volume One of "House of Darkness House of Light" is the supernatural tale of seven mortals who moved into an ancient farmhouse in Harrisville, R.I. We inadvertently embarked upon an extraordinary journey of spiritual enlightenment then left the farm a decade later, each fundamentally changed and absolutely certain that there is some form of existence beyond this realm.

Fund Raising Events

3rd Annual Heritage Day, October 1, 2011, 10 AM - 4 PM

Learn about the Civil War from Elisha Dyer Camp 7, Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War Battery C, 1st RI Light Artillery

Embark on a journey into the past. Hear fascinating tales about our Civil War ancestors or the Civil War History in general.

Aquidneck Island Intertribal Indian Council

Drum Circle 12 - 4 PM

The Drum has played a huge role in the Native American ceremony and culture as well as becoming an icon of their people. Drums have been used for thousands of years in every country for healing, dancing, chanting and singing

Also, Native American storytellers.

Recently signed to a major artist in Los Angeles

You tube Singing Sensation, Jenna Sousa. This local star will be singing and meeting the people from her home town. 12 - 2 PM

Farmers Market

The harvest has begun and our farmers will have fresh locally grown fruits and vegetables. Also jams and jellies, pizza, bread, fudge, baked goods and various other items.

Coventry Historical Society

Will be serving their famous chowder and clam cakes

Pawtuxet Valley Preservation and Historical Society

Will have their 2011 Christmas ornament on sale, this year it is St. Mary's Church

Flu Shots Noon - 2 PM

No charge—BCBS, Medicare Part B, United Healthcare, Neighborhood Health Tufts, Tricare or Cigna \$25.00 different insurance or no insurance. Must have insurance card with you. For more information call Lori at 206-9399. Register at www.thewellcomp.com.

Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty

Saturday, October 29 · 7:00 AM - 10:30 PM

Get a close up view of two of our most celebrated landmarks. Tour includes transportation and the tickets and for the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. (this tour does not allow access to the Pedestal/Museum or to climb to the crown of the Statue of Liberty.) \$70 per person, \$65 for members.

For reservations call 822-5356 and leave a message. Deadline for reservations is Sept. 29, 2011.

41 Signs of Hope

November 5, 2011, 7 PM \$20 per person, includes a free autographed copy of "41 Signs of Hope"

Call 822-5356 for tickets, deadline is October 28, 2011.

New England Bay Retirement Center, 600 Centre of New England Blvd., Coventry, RI

An Enlightening presentation of love and laughter!

Dave Kane, father of Nicholas O'Neill, the youngest victim of the fourth largest nightclub fire in U. S. history, shares fascinating stories and intriguing evidence that life never ends. After receiving a barrage of signs, including vocal messages from Nicky, Dave is convinced that he has not "lost" his son. Instead he has been given the priceless gift of loving eternal connection with his boy. After experiencing Dave's uplifting presentation and seeing his evidence, you too will be assured that your loved ones who have passed are still with you.

This program is entertaining, informative and truly inspirational, Prepare to believe that miracles happen and that anything is possible.

Coventry's Villages - Travel Back in Time

Coventry was first settled in the early 18th century, when the town was part of Warwick. Because the area was so far away from the center of Warwick, its population grew very slowly. However, by 1741, about 100 families had settled in the area and petitioned the General Assembly of Rhode Island to create their own town. The petition was granted, and the new town was named Coventry, after the English city of the same name.

The town we know today was once made up of multiple villages, some of which still remain. The town is home to many historic churches and houses, such as the General Nathanael Greene Homestead, Paine House and Joseph Briggs House to name a few. There are also over 190 historical cemeteries in the town. Farmhouses from the 18th century can be found scattered around the town, and many are still private residences. On the eastern side of town, many homes from the 19th century can be found, ranging from the homes of mill workers to mansions owned by the town's wealthiest residents. Also, many of the churches in Coventry date from the 19th century and are still functioning churches.

Coventry has a rich history that all its residents should be aware of. Who knows, you may even find that your home or part of your own backyard once played a significant role in the development of our town.

Coventry Roots: Arkwright

The next village in our series is the village of Arkwright. The village is located in the northeastern corner of Coventry and also touches parts of Cranston and Scituate.

In the 1700s the village was known as Remington's Run after the Remington family that owned a large parcel of land.

In the early nineteenth century the families of Jabez and James Burlingame operated a saw mill and grist mill on the site and the area became known by the name of the Burlingame Mills. In April 1809 the Burlingames, Elisha Arnold, and Nathan Potter sold the land to the consortium which had been formed between James DeWolf, Doctor Caleb Fiske, his son Philip, and Asher Robbins. They named the company the Arkwright Manufacturing Company after Richard Arkwright, an English inventor, millwright and the man who had trained Samuel Slater. Slater later immigrated to America and started a cotton mill in Pawtucket.

The first Arkwright Mill was constructed of wood in 1810 and it burned down in 1814. By 1817 James DeWolf had bought out all the partners and became the sole owner of the Arkwright Company. In 1822 James DeWolf rebuilt a mill constructed of wood and stone next the old mill's foundation and they resumed the manufacturing of cotton thread.

In 1837 upon the death of DeWolf, his heirs rented the factories to Crawford Allen and Company. In 1852 the heirs of James DeWolf sold the mill to William A. Howard. In 1883 the company was sold and incorporated as the Arkwright - Interlaken Company. The company manufactured book cloth and until recently was the oldest of its kind in the United States. The current stone mill was built toward the end of the 19th century and additions were added in the early part of the 20th century. The mill complex once consisted of a dye house, bleachery, bobbin shop, saw mill and a grist mill.

Besides the mill and mill houses still standing today the village once consisted of a company farm, company store, church and school. The modern village of Arkwright is distinct from the other villages of Coventry because the mill that was the life-blood of the village is still in operation today.

So as you are driving along Route 115 imagine what village life must have been like when cotton was king.

Coventry Roots article contributed by Andrew Boisvert who also writes the Coventry Roots series for Coventry Patch.