

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

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No. 2

WASHINGTON EXHIBITION

February 15 to 21

· 1932 ·



In commemoration of the Washington bicentennial the Rhode Island Historical Society will hold a loan exhibition of objects relating to George Washington, during the week of February 15 to 21, 1932, at the Society's building.



WASHINGTON CAVALRY

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Issued Quarterly

68 WATERMAN STREET, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

to record George Washington's presence. The first, "Nailer Tom" (Thomas B. Hazard), notes with his usual succinct manner: "3/6 C. W. W. made Nails. went to Tower Hall. Generril Washinton went Newport this Day. the Town was Elluminated."⁷ On leaving Little Rest, Washington made his way to the old South Ferry to cross to Conanicut and from there to Newport. We find from the account that each ferry toll was \$288. On his way he passed by the house of Jeffrey Watson, who lived near the ferry and had, in fact, at one time owned and operated it.⁸ Watson noted that outstanding event by entering in his diary that "On March 6th General Washington Rode by our House with about Twenty Soldiers for a guard about ten o'clock."⁹

It is regrettable that General Washington did not keep his diary at this date that we *might* have had his impression of his visit to Little Rest, and it is also regrettable that there appears to be no contemporary account of the entertainment afforded him by the village, of the "ellumination," of the possible guard of honor composed of a detail from the Kingston Reds, of the jollity at "Joe Runnells" Tavern and at the several other inns.

The only further reference to the General's visit comes down to us in the tale of "Major" Lunt, who boasted of the honor of having shaved the Father of his Country, which is so amusingly told in the Jonny Cake Papers.¹⁰ Record, that cruel despoiler of traditional glory, deprives Lunt of his rank and enters him as private and sergeant. On February 7, 1834, Elisha Reynolds Potter, son of Col. Potter, then a member of Congress, wrote to his son Elisha that "In the time of the revolution Mr. Lunt watched a

⁷*Nailer Tom's Diary*, Thomas B. Hazard. Boston, 1930, p. 20.

⁸*Rhode Island Ferries*, Anna Augusta and Charles V. Chapin, Providence, 1925, pp. 264 et seq.

⁹*Narragansett Friend's Meeting*, Caroline Hazard, Boston, 1899, p. 167.

¹⁰*The Jonny Cake Papers of "Shepard Tom,"* Thomas Robinson Hazard, Boston, 1851.

beacon that we had on the hill to light when the English landed on our shores and had a gun that he was blowed up with to fire for the same purpose. I want you to see him and git him to make application for a pension . . ." ¹¹

So the "pleasant tradition" of George Washington's stay in Little Rest happily becomes an historical fact, a genuine satisfaction that occurs but occasionally in the work of historical research where the glamour surrounding the past is so often rudely dispelled.

¹¹From the Potter Papers. The pension was granted and is recorded in the pension list published in 1835.

Dorr War Flags

The Rhode Island Historical Society museum contains a collection of nine Dorr War banners, which were carried in 1842. Illustrations of the interesting political banners are shown in this issue of the COLLECTIONS.



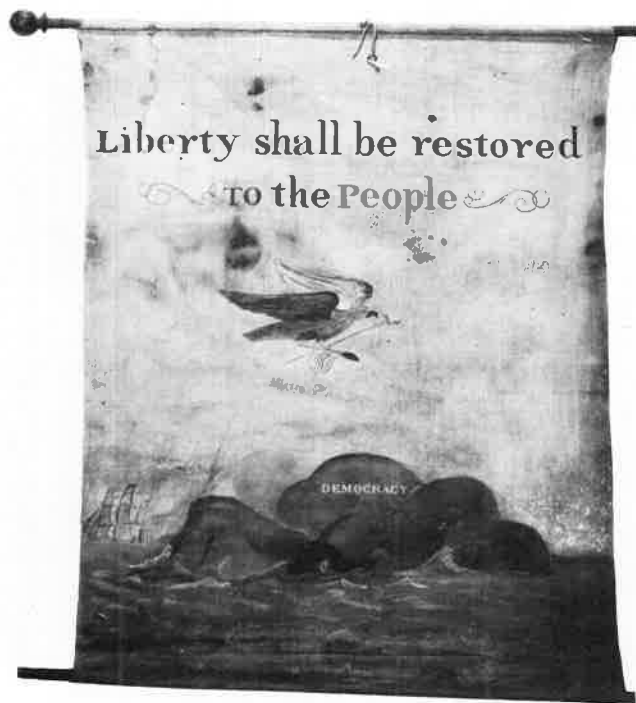
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FIRST WARD BANNER

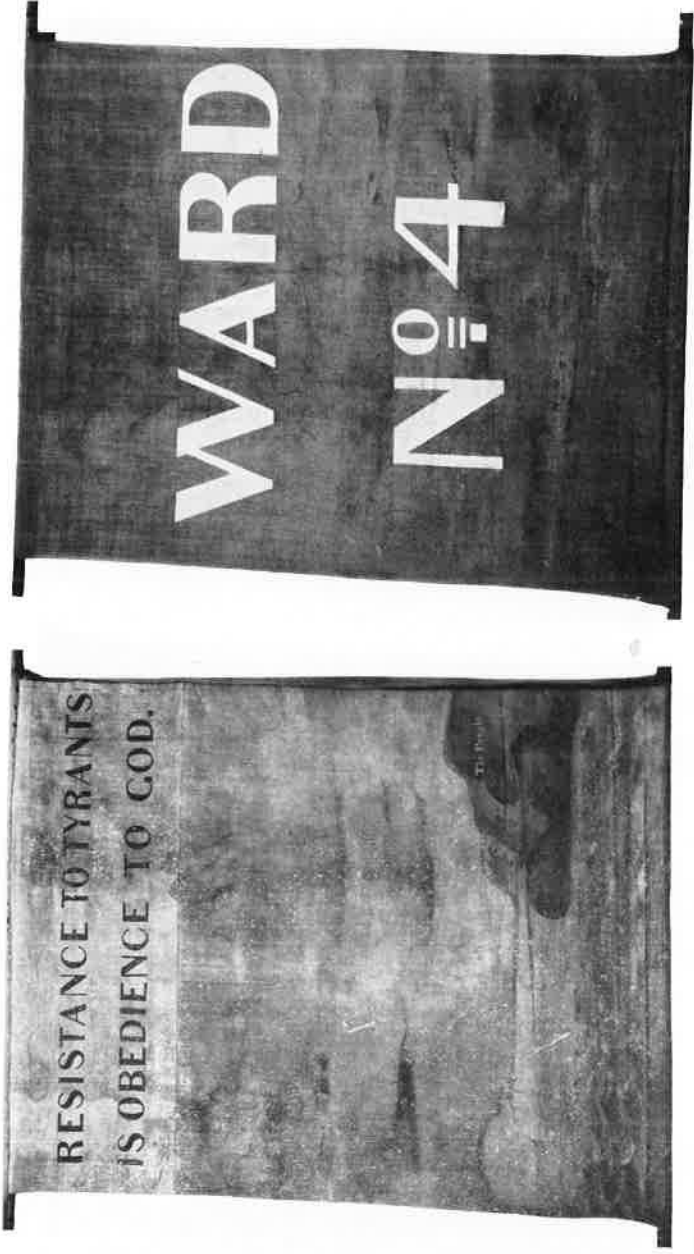
(Reverse)

The Inscription Reads: "Sacred to the Memory of the Hon. J. Cilley."



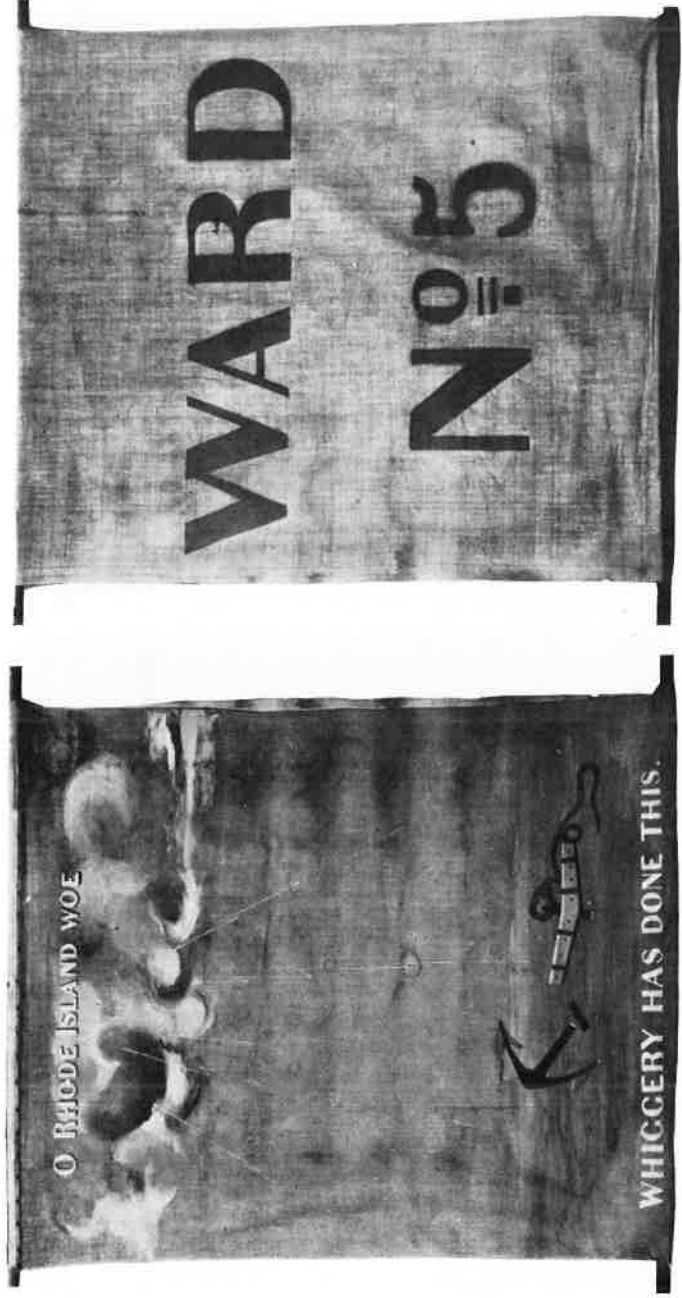
SECOND WARD BANNER

(Reverse)



FOURTH WARD BANNER

(Reverse)



FIFTH WARD BANNER

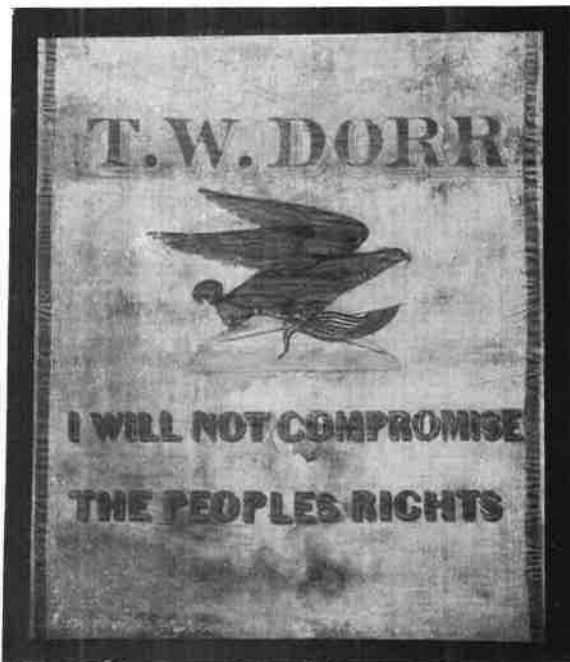
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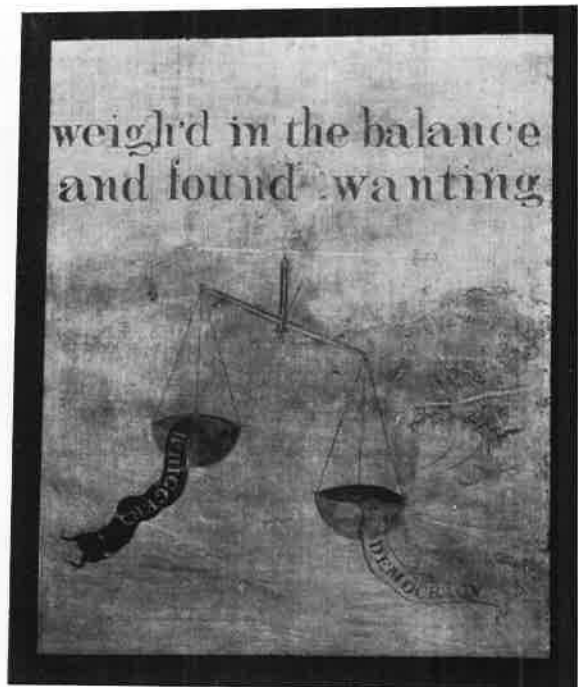
SIXTH WARD BANNER



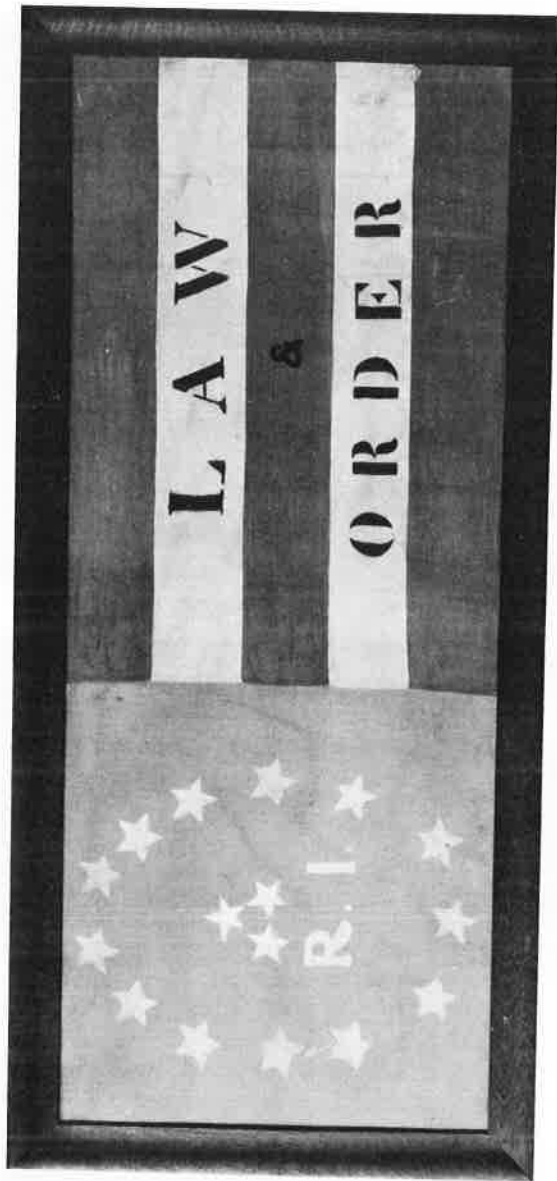
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DORR WAR BANNER

Rhode Island Historical Society Treasurer's Report

INCOME ACCOUNT FOR YEAR 1931

RECEIPTS

Annual Dues	\$2,770.00
Dividends and Interest	5,401.44
Rental of Rooms	105.00
State Appropriations	1,500.00
	\$9,776.44

EXPENDITURES

Binding	\$ 577.40
Books	706.97
Electric Light and Gas	46.17
Exhibitions	159.41
Expense	248.70
Grounds and Building	87.41
Heating	700.00
Newspaper	32.35
Publications	1,041.04
Salaries	5,580.00
Supplies	330.57
Telephone	63.95
Water	8.00
	\$9,581.97
Surplus Income Account	194.47
	\$9,776.44