

The Annual Harvest Supper will be in October and the tickets will be the same as last year, \$2.25. Reservations may be made with Mrs. Carrie Jacques, Chepachet, R. I. 568-4817 or Mrs. Oscar Greene, Mapleville, R. I. 568-4047. Either by phone or by mail. Our former president, Maxwell Mays, will be the speaker so get your bid in early! Time: 6:30 for supper.

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The Rhode Island League of Historical Societies will meet on Oct. 18 at the Slater Mill in Pawtucket.

OUR TOWN NAMES

One of the most interesting parts of our historical meetings is the roll call by towns. The towns have beautiful names and some have a musical ring. While thinking about these roll calls a thought came to mind about writing some of the historic data about how these towns got their names. The most obvious ones like Cranston, named for Governor Samuel Cranston; Richmond, after Edward Richmond, Attorney General of the Colony; and Hopkinton, after Governor Stephen Hopkins, were named after prominent men in Rhode Island. But what about the little towns that make up our fair state. Take Chepachet for example. When the Indians were here they used symbols and ideas for words. Chepachet? It is a Nipmuck word. It is said to be compounded of two words, "Chepuck"—devil, and "chank"—bag. And means "Devil's Bag" rather a hard name one would think. Tradition has it that a bag was found that had no owner. No one could explain it so a wise old Indian suggested that it was dropped by the "devil" hence the name Chepachet was derived from it.

The town of Auburn was named after Auburn in Goldsmith's "Deserted Village." Warwick was called after that noble gentleman, The Earl of Warwick. A little before 1820 a mill was built called the Fiskeville Mill and was quite naturally named after the owners . . . hence Fiskeville received its name. The town of Clyde was formerly known as "Birch Hill." A Mrs. Rice who lived across the river from the Lippitt Mill said she called it "Birch Hill" from the confusion (profusion) of birch trees which resided there (grew there). There used to be a broom man factory and each day two old men came out from Providence and whittled birch brooms, which they took back and sold in the city. It is said that they whittled like everything, quarreled like fury, and got 'sfull as a Fiddler's sack. Can anyone tell us what that expression means? When the Clyde Print Works was established the town assumed the name of Clyde and was at times known as "Pike's Mills" However, the railroad station was built in 1881 and was given the name of Clyde and it has remained ever since. Phenix, where our August meeting was held, was first known as Wales. It derived its name from the Waled family who owned a large tract of land here. In 1812 a cotton mill was erected and called the Roger William Company. It then became known as the "Roger Williams Village". In 1821 the name was changed to Phenix and on December 19, 1849 the post office was removed from Lippitt with Henry D. Brown as the post master and the town was officially established as Phenix.

The most western part of our state has a town with the obvious name of Westerly. When a group of colonists happened to pass our way they found a new port and thus Newport came in to being. Along the banks of a river a few people settled and for want of a name they called it Riverside. The Indians of the Narragansett Tribe used to watch for their enemies on the top of a high hill so Watch Hill got its name. The town of Wallum Lake was called after the lake with the same name. The tribe of Pas-co-ag Indians gave us the Name Pascoag. Coag meaning snake. The town is full of ledges and when the Indians passed by this locality they literally passed-by-the-snakes, hence, Pascoag came into being. The Township of Burrillville was named after the Honorable James Burrill, Attorney General of the State; and Washington County, of course honors General George Washington. Foster took its name from United States Senator Theodore F. Foster.

Since most of our first settlers came from England it is not strange to find that quite a few of our towns were named after English towns. We have Portsmouth, Bristol, Barrington, Exeter, Norwood, Lonsdale and Coventry to name a few. Charlestown is named after His Most Gracious Majesty, King Charles II; Jamestown after the Duke of York, who was later called James II. Warren, after Admiral Sir Peter Warren.

Anthony was first called "Quaker Village" was used later as two brothers William and Richard Anthony had built a cotton mill here in 1808. The village being called after them. On February 27, 1849 a post office was built under the name of Anthony's Village. Lauriston Hall was the postmaster. Two years later on November 6, 1851 the postoffice changed the name to just Anthony. However, on May 14, 1857 the postoffice was changed to "Quidnick" with William B. Hopkins as postmaster. On September 25, 1869 it was again changed to Anthony with Henry Matteson as postmaster. Crompton was first called "Stone Factory." It was changed to Crompton in 1823. Some of the mill machinery was not running properly and the company invited James Crompton, a well-known English machinist and machine builder to look over their machinery. In deep appreciation for getting their mill to run smoothly once again, the name of the village was renamed Crompton. A post office was established here in 1883 with Henry D. Hayden as postmaster.

Washington had a name as early as 1765 but it was called "Brayton" and a little later "Brayton Town". Thomas and Francis Brayton each built a grist mill on opposite sides of the river, near the present bridge. Along about 1812 Peleg Wilbur and George Arnold buuilt the first cotton mill in town and named it the "Washington Mill".

Natick was a name the Indians gave the area its meaning being, "The place of hills." Pontiac was formerly referred to as "Toceunk" from an early Indian village located here. It underwent several changes. The earliest English name was "The Great Weir." In about 1750 the name changed to "Arnold's Bridge" The Arnold's built a cotton mill in 1819 and sold out to John Clark in 1830. Thus the village was known as "Clark's-ville." In 1852 the mill was bought by Robert Knight and he renamed it "Pontiac." Around 1770 the Greene Brothers of Potowomut in company of others built a foundry near the present village of Hope. They operated under the name of the "Hope Foundry Company". The village of Arkwright was named after Richard Arkwright an English inventor and millwright. It was first called Remington's Run the Remington family being large land owners in the vicinity. Later a saw mill and later a grist mill were built by James Burlingame and the spot was called "Burlingame Mills." After 1810 when the mill was built it was named the Arkwright Mill and thus the present name came into being.

To be continued in next issue

17247 Simonds St.
Granada Hills, Calif.
August 21, 1969

Dear Miss Mathewson and fellow members:

This is something I've intended to do for a long time—a small donation for the "warming pan", from probable the only descendant of Loyalists (Tories to you) in your flock. This is not to be construed as a "penance" for them, only a donation. (Don't have been a war, and many of our members wouldn't have forget if it hadn't been for my Loyalist ancestors there wouldn't Revolutionary Heros in their line) I can't begin to tell you how much I enjoy the Hinterlander and to note the many family names appearing, families that are intermarried or connected in some way with my own line.

So wishing you all the best in your endeavors, I remain,

Sincerely,

George D. Straight, Lt. U.S.N.

There was a great deal of response to the first part of the article about our town names. It would be interesting to have an article made up of the comments! The one intriguing thing was the variations in the spelling of the town names. Most of the letters received, gave a reason for the variation.

Continued from last month
OUR TOWN NAMES

Lippit was first called "Edmund's Mill." Before 1735 Andrew Edmund built a grist mill here which was the earliest use of the water power in the Valley that I have been able to find a record of. In 1809 a cotton mill was built with Charles and Christopher Lippit as owners. On January 23, 1833 a postoffice was built and named Lippit with William Spencer as the postmaster.

You have the villages of Mapleville and Oakland named because of the great Maples and Oaks that grew in the vicinity. Mohegan is an Indian name taken from the tribe of the same name. Gloucester was named after the English township. Graniteville from the great slabs of Granite used to build the huge mill located there. Apponaug comes from an Indian word "Aponake" meaning "shell fish." About 1696 one John Micarter built a fulling mill here and it was called "Fulling Mill." Later in 1796 John Stafford built a tide mill at the cove and it was called "Stafford's Tide Mill." But on January 1, 1815 a postoffice was established here and called Warwick. Peleg Congdon was the postmaster. October 29, 1879 saw the name again changed this time to Apponaug. George Blackmar was the postmaster. A second Warwick post office was built in 1881 with Henry Capron as its postmaster. In 1823 Elisha Harris built a large mill and the town of Harrisville was born and later the "ville" was dropped and the name Harris has remained. Jackson was named for Gov. Jackson one of the earliest promoters of the mills in the area.

Riverpoint was earlier called "Hathaway's Ford." The Hathaway family owned to the river and allowed people to "ford" the river instead of going a long way around. Later after a cotton mill was built it was called "Greenville" but was so near Centreville that the name was dropped and was called "The Pint." (It was the custom of the carpenters to bring 'each in their turn' a pint of whiskey during the cold weather. On one occasion a carpenter drank nearly the whole pint, filling the bottle with water, which froze.) After this the village was known as "The Frozen Pint." About 1835 the first temperance wave came to the Valley and the name was not apropos. Since the rivers came to a point there the people of the town decided to call it Riverpoint. When the Railroad built a station here in 1854 it was called Riverpoint, much to the relief of the townsfolk. The village of Arctic was first called "Rice Hollow" after Thomas Rice a land-owner. In 1831 Rufus Wakefield built the cotton mill. Then it was called "Wakefield Village". In 1852 Amasa and William Sprague bought the property and renamed it the Arctic mill. Thus the name Arctic was born.

S.M.G.

**NEWS NOTES FOUND IN A COPY OF THE "GLENER"
OF JANUARY, 1891**

These Valley folk made news this week! Mary Tew is staying with Mrs. Irving Anderson at Oneco. . . . Willie Boss of Frenchtown and his best girl of Davisville were out sleighing Sunday and visited friends in Frenchtown, Riverpoint Congregational Sunday school has named the following as officers: George A. Young, Rev. F. H. Adams, S. S. Reoch, Samuel T. Whipple, C. F. Bennett, F. R. Greene, Lillias S. Reoch and Lizzie A. Parker. . . . Daniel and Richard Howland of Hope have finished filling their ice house, a total of 70 tons having been stored away. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Willet Carter of Natick are announcing the birth of a daughter. . . . Mrs. James King of Pontiac slipped on ice near her home this week and severely cut her head. . . . Israel Whaley and William Matteson of Harkney Hill have filled their ice house

with product of excellent quality. . . . Charles Henry is moving into the Griswold farm at Hope. . . . Arnold Knight who has been superintendent of Enfield mills for the past 10 years is to leave that position to assume the agency of the Smithville Manufacturing Company in Willimantic. . . . Welcome Marfist and family of South Killingly spent New Year's Day at the home of Mrs. C. R. Carter in Natick. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Knight of Kent are announcing the birth of a daughter. . . . Fanny Weeden of Hopkins Mills has left for Bristol to attend school. . . . L. A. Knight and Son of Kent have filled their ice house. . . . Herbert W. Roper and William F. Potter, Quidnick mill overseers, were recipients of gold watches at Christmas. . . . John Hunt, second hand in the carding room at the Quidnick mill was presented a smoking set and a shaving set by employees of that department during the Yuletide season, the presentation being made by Everett Bates. . . . Rev. John Salisbury is expected to preach at the seminary in East Greenwich next Sunday. . . . Dr. R. Morton Smith has opened an office for the practice of medicine at Woodside Avenue, Riverpoint. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Lindsey Jordan now are housekeeping in the house with Mrs. C. A. Havens at Coventry Center. . . . Rev. H. D. Adams, pastor at Hope Methodist Church, received an envelope from the Christmas tree at the church party and in it he found \$10 from The King's Daughters. . . . E. I. Leach of Hope started on Tuesday the harvesting of ice for A. C. Matteson; he expects to house about 1200 tons. . . . Nathan Mitchell of Chopmist and Mamie Waterman of Ponagansett were recently married. . . . In the Christmas program at Warwick Central Baptist Church, Apponaug, a special song "In Bethlehem" was sung by Maud Aylsworth, Nellie Gardiner and Gracie Kinnecom, and an original poem was read by Mrs. Hannah Bennett. . . . Arthur Rodman of West Exeter, has gone to work on the railroad as brakeman on a freight train. . . . A. E. Cummings and G. R. Barber have gone to Brighton to purchase cows for the Austin Farm. . . . Master Daniel Howland of Hope received for one of his Christmas presents a bicycle supplied through the agency of S. W. Himes & Company of Phenix.

CURIOSLY WROUGHT

A great deal of satisfaction was obtained from an item that was used in the old farm kitchens of yesteryear. From our Paine House collection we will give you a little information about our "churn" If you have a butter-churn, cherish it. Anyone can use an egg beater and make a little butter in a bowl. But years ago butter had to be made and it was a task. First you had a tin can about three feet tall and this was about a foot in diameter. The cream would rise to the top and the skim milk was drawn off through a small spigot located near the bottom of the can. After ripening in an earthen jug, in the buttery, for a few days, it was brought out and put into the churn. This churn had first been warmed with warm water so that the paddle and the inside of the churn came to the right temperature. Then the person whose job it was to turn the crank commenced to start. If you were lucky the butter came into being easily and quickly. Sometimes it was just plain ornery. You could hear the sloshing as the paddle went around and around. Soon it got harder and you could feel the chunks of butter beginning to form. When mother determined that it was the right moment the plug was pulled out and the fresh golden buttermilk was drawn off. The butter was then removed and put into a big wooden bowl and a big wooden paddle was used to force all of the liquid out. Salt was added and the butter was put into a wooden mold that held just a pound. Fancy designs were imprinted into this mold. The butter was then wrapped and stored for use at a later date by the family.

Maybe someone has one of the tin milk cans that would complete our collection. We would appreciate it at the Paine House.