

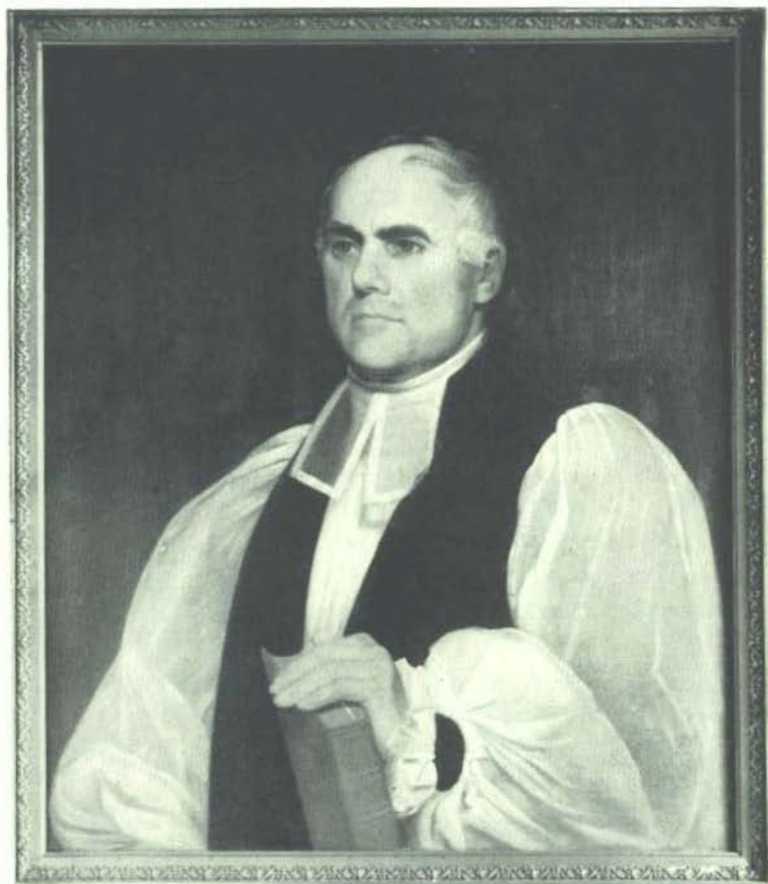
RHODE ISLAND HISTORY

PUBLISHED BY RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL. 111

APRIL 1944

NO. 2



THE RT. REV. ALEXANDER VIETS GRISWOLD (1766 - 1843)
FIRST AND ONLY BISHOP OF THE EASTERN DIOCESE OF THE
PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH, COMPRISING THE CHURCHES
IN MASSACHUSETTS, MAINE, RHODE ISLAND, VERMONT AND NEW
HAMPSHIRE. PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE CHURCH, 1836-1843.
Portrait in oil by John Wesley Jarvis.
Courtesy of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island.

ISSUED QUARTERLY AT PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

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RHODE ISLAND HISTORY

VOL. III

APRIL 1944

NO. 2

CHARLES B. MACKINNEY, *President*

GEORGE L. MINER, *Treasurer*

WILLIAM DAVIS MILLER, *Secretary*

WILLIAM G. ROELKER, *Director and Librarian*

*The Rhode Island Historical Society assumes no responsibility
for the statements or the opinions of contributors.*

122nd Annual Meeting of the Society

In several ways, the 122nd annual meeting of the Society on January 25, 1944, was one of the most notable in its history. Following are some highlights on the reports submitted:

L. Newton Hayes, Chairman of the Membership Committee, announced that the Society now had 1017 members—the largest number in its history; a gain from 916 members at the end of the preceding year, and from 750 members in January, 1942. During the year, 142 new members were enrolled, which, after a loss of 41, left a net gain of 101 members. The goal set by the Committee is a total of 1200 members by January, 1945.

Paul C. Nicholson, Chairman of the Publications Committee, suggested in his report that the Society give prompt attention to the task of cataloguing its published collections and to begin at once to make an index for each new volume as it is published.

Richard LeBaron Bowen, Chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, reported that some plan of ventilation must be devised for the vaults in the cellar, to keep them dry in summer. He also urged the setting up of a building and maintenance reserve fund.

Charles C. Remington, Chairman of the Library Committee, reported that special collections of John Brown documents and Nathanael Greene letters had been given to the Society during the year by Frederick S. Peck. Although

few purchases were made during the year, he said, the committee desires to have ample funds in order that bargains in acquisitions may not be missed when they appear on the market.

Theodore Collier, Chairman of the Lecture Committee, reported that in addition to the Society's regular meetings, John Brown House was used for fourteen meetings of patriotic, historical, and family associations between July and December.

Joseph G. Henshaw, Chairman of the Committee on Necrology, read the names of 23 members who died during the year. Included among these was William Gammell, second oldest member of the Society, who was born in John Brown House and became a member of the Society in 1884.

William G. Roelker, Director and Librarian, called attention in his report to the necessity of erecting a building, after the war, to house the Society's museum collection and paintings and to provide an auditorium large enough to seat from 300 to 400 persons.

By unanimous vote, the following were elected Corresponding members: Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Director, Wisconsin State Historical Society; President, American Association for State and Local History; Dr. Paul H. Buck, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University; Dr. Solon J. Buck, Director, The National Archives; Dr. Christopher Crittenden, Secretary, North Carolina State Department of Archives and History; Dr. Stephen W. Phillips, President, Essex Institute.

The following officers were elected: *President*—CHARLES B. MACKINNEY; *Vice Presidents*—HENRY D. SHARPE, RICHARD LeBARON BOWEN; *Secretary*—WILLIAM DAVIS MILLER; *Asst. Secretary*—RONALD C. GREEN, JR.; *Treasurer*—GEORGE L. MINER; *Asst. Treasurer*—HOWARD W. WILSON.

The Membership Committee was reconstituted as follows: L. Newton Hayes, *Chairman*; Mrs. Colt Anthony; Harry B. Sherman; Mrs. Charles A. Gale; Col. Winfield Scott Solomon.

Arthur B. Lisle was elected Chairman of the Committee on Grounds and Buildings, composed of the following members: C. Prescott Knight, Jr., John Hutchins Cady, A. Livingston Kelley, and Henry B. Cross.

Charles J. Hill was elected Chairman of the Audit Committee, composed of the following members: Godfrey B. Simonds and J. Cunliffe Bullock.

There were no changes in the other Committees.

The Executive Committee consists of the Officers and Chairmen of the Committees, and Grace M. Sherwood, State Librarian, ex officio, and Addison P. Munroe, at large.

After Harris H. Bucklin, the retiring president, had presented a resumé of his term in office, a resolution thanking him for his work was adopted. The Society also voted to extend its thanks to Mrs. Charles D. Cook for her work as chairman of the entertainment committee.

B. F. S.

* * * * *

Rhode Island Whaling Logs

owned by PAUL C. NICHOLSON

*Ship Balance	Bristol	1833 - 1837
*Ship Benjamin Rush	Warren	1833 - 1835
Ship Bowdich	Warren	1846 - 1849 and 1852 - 1856
Ship Bowdich	Warren	1849 - 1852
Ship Cassandra	Providence	1844 - 1846
*Ship Chariot	Warren	1838 - 1840
Bark Covington	Warren	1852 - 1856 and 1856 - 1860
*Ship Gen. Jackson	Bristol	1836 - 1839
Brig Gov. Hopkins	Bristol	1839 - 1840
Ship Leonidas	Bristol	1830 - 1833
Ship Lion	Providence	1845
Ship Lion	Providence	1854 - 1856
*Ship Mechanic	Newport	1846 - 1851
*Ship Miles	Warren	1831 - 1832
*Ship Rosalie	Warren	1825 - 1828
*Ship Rosalie	Warren	1839 - 1840
Bark Sea Shell (2 Vol.)	Warren	1853 - 1856

*Whale Stamps or Drawings.

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Treasurer's Report: year 1943*RECEIPTS: *Operating*

Dues	\$5,387.00	
Interest and Dividends	3,176.05	
State of R. I. Appropriation	3,499.98	
Sale of Books and Publications	256.25	
Contributions for general use	2,258.00	
Sundry	52.28	
		\$14,629.56

RECEIPTS: *Non-Operating*

Contribution for special use	\$ 500.00	
Bequest, Stephen Ira Peck, 1943	1,000.00	
For purchase of State papers, binding, etc.	627.49	
Securities sold during the year	6,962.08	
Sundry	394.88	
		9,484.45

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$24,114.01

EXPENDITURES: *Operating*

Salaries, plus tax	\$9,050.78	
Supplies, maintenance, etc.	1,300.28	
Committee:—Membership	282.57	
“ Library	499.50	
“ Lecture	194.25	
“ Publication (4 R. I. History)	1,181.42	
“ Grounds and Building	922.52	
“ Audit	40.00	
Insurance	370.19	
		13,841.51

EXPENDITURES: *Non-Operating*

Special expenditures	\$ 870.88	
Securities Purchased	6,875.29	
J. B. H. Reconstruction	2,709.53	
		10,455.70

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$24,297.21

GEORGE L. MINER, *Treasurer*

The Development of the Neck

A Chronicle of the East Side of Providence

by JOHN HUTCHINS CADY, F.A.I.A.

(Continued from *Rhode Island History*, Volume II, No. 4, p. 127)

CHAPTER IV. 1760-1772

By the year 1760 commerce had become the most important factor in the development of the Rhode Island colony. Newport was still the leading port in Narragansett bay as well as one of the most important on the American continent while Providence, with a population only half that of Newport, was on her way towards commercial exploits which were to bring her fame in later years of the century.

The principal sea activities were privateering and commerce with the West Indies and Africa. During the French and Indian war of 1756-63 the Rhode Island colony issued over sixty letters of marque to capture the vessels and merchandise of the enemies of the King of England. The vessels captured under those commissions were taken to the nearest British admiralty court and, if their seizures were declared legal, were condemned and sold with their cargoes and the proceeds divided in each case between the owners, officers and crew.¹ In trade with the West Indies the vessels cleared from Rhode Island with cargoes of farm and dairy products, dried fish, beef, pork, horses, and lumber and returned laden with molasses, rum, sugar, and cotton. The only custom house in the colony was in Newport and smuggling was frequent. Many distilleries were in operation in Providence where molasses was converted into rum and shipped in vessels to Africa whence slaves were brought back to the West Indies on the return voyages.

Among the leading Providence merchants were the

¹ Howard W. Preston, *Rhode Island's Historic Background*, published by R. I. Tercentenary Commission, 1936, p. 24.

members of the Brown family. Obadiah Brown had continued the sea trade established by his brother James after the latter's death in 1739,² and had taken into the business his nephews Nicholas, Joseph and John Brown. After Obadiah's death in 1761 the nephews organized the house of Nicholas Brown and Company, to which their younger brother Moses was admitted in 1763. This firm, whose enterprises covered a wide range of activities at home and abroad, soon became the most important commercial establishment in the colony.³

Passenger service between Providence and Newport was instituted in 1760 by regular sailings of a packet from Hacker's wharf, located near the foot of the present Planet Street. Joshua Hacker, its proprietor, formerly of Salem, built a house on the east side of the Towne street, opposite his wharf, which he later converted into a place of entertainment known as Hacker's Hall. Balls and parties were held there by the elite of the town, invitations to which were printed on playing cards. Among the distinguished guests entertained at the hall were Washington, Varnum, Gates and Rochambeau.⁴

The erection of a new Colony House, to replace the County House that had been destroyed by fire,⁵ was undertaken in 1760. A lot was acquired "northward of that whereon the meeting house of the people called Quakers, stands,"⁶ extending from the Towne street to Benefit Street. A committee consisting of Allen Brown, William Smith and David Harris was appointed to procure materials for a brick building with the understanding that the timber required would be furnished by Obadiah Brown at cost.⁷ Construction work proceeded slowly and in June, 1762, the General Assembly appointed Daniel Jenckes and William Wheaton

² See page 117, chapter III, Oct., '43.

³ Field, II, 445.

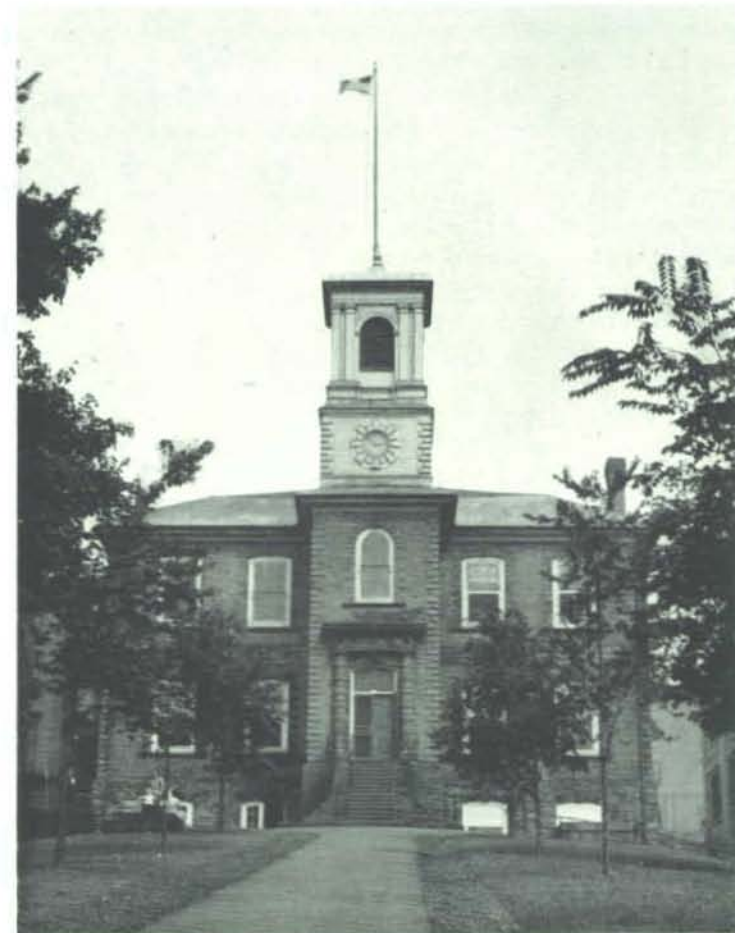
⁴ Edwin Martin Stone, *Our French Allies* (Providence, 1884), p. 253.

⁵ See page 127, chapter III, Oct., '43.

⁶ *R. I. C. R.*, VI, 207.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 196, 209.

a committee "to complete the outside . . . so far as to keep it from taking damage, lay the floors, build the stairs, and complete two rooms in the chamber, suitable for the General Assembly to sit in."⁸ The Colony House (also known



COLONY HOUSE (1762)
AS ENLARGED IN 1851

⁸ *R. I. C. R.*, VI, 327.

as the Court House), as completed late in 1762, was about 40 by 70 feet in area, having two stories and a basement with a hipped roof and balustraded deck, surmounted by a tower. The basement walls were of coursed stone and the walls above were brick with rusticated stone trimmings. A new collection of books was purchased and installed in replacement of the library which had been burned.

The building was financed, partly by lotteries and partly by grants from the general treasury.⁹ It was enlarged and altered in 1850-51 by the addition of a front projecting entrance and tower with a wood belfry, and a long flight of stone steps, designed by Thomas A. Tefft (page 39). The interior also was altered, except the northwest room in the second story which retains to this day its original character. An addition to the east end, facing Benefit Street, was constructed later from plans by Alfred Stone. Washington, Lafayette and Rochambeau were visitors in the building, and Rhode Island's Declaration of Independence was signed there May 4, 1776. It was known as the State House from that year until 1900 and has since been headquarters for the Sixth District Court.

The condition of the town highways, at the time the Colony House was built, is described in the words of a petition made by several of the inhabitants to the General Assembly in February, 1761, which represented that the streets "are so bad that at some seasons of the year it is almost impracticable to pass; that this inconvenience is rendered still greater, by the great number of carts and other carriages coming into the said town; that the said streets, from the nature and situation of the ground, can never be made good and passable, unless they be paved; and therefore they prayed that a lottery or lotteries may be granted for raising such a sum of money as shall be sufficient for paving the said streets, or at least such parts thereof, as shall be judged more immediately necessary."¹⁰ The Assembly

⁹ *R. I. C. R.*, VI, 215, 236, 237, 252, 270, 327.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 269.

granted the petition and authorized a lottery for raising the sum of £6000 to be applied towards paving the streets of Providence under direction of Nicholas Cooke, John Brown, Knight Dexter, Joseph Bennett, Joseph Bucklin and George Jackson. The paving program was in three parts, each starting from Weybosset Bridge and radiating, respectively, "up town" (north), "down town" (south), and "westerly" and extending, in each case, "as far as the nett proceeds will carry it." An enlargement of the program was permitted by the authorization of a lottery for raising an additional £6000 in September, 1761.¹¹ The paving technique consisted in the laying of large, round stones with a line of stones of still larger size in the middle, called the crown of the causeway.¹²

On the night of October 24, 1761, there was a hard gale of wind which brought the highest tide into the harbor of Providence that had been known in the memory of man, carried away Weybosset Bridge, and beat down part of its "buttments and pillars." Forthwith the town deputies presented a petition to the General Assembly, recalling that the bridge had been built "from time to time, at the expense of the colony, excepting the last time, when it was re-built by money raised by a lottery," and praying that the Assembly "grant a sum of money, sufficient to re-build the said bridge." The sum of £1000 was appropriated from the general treasury for the purpose, under protest of six subscribers who argued that "there being but thirty-five members now present, and fourteen of that number belonging to the county of Providence; we think they have a great advantage of voting money to their own county."¹³ The bridge, as re-built in 1764, was 22 feet wide and its total cost was £4357 (page 42). Subsequently a lottery was granted for building a draw in the bridge. "After this, vessels from the West Indies, with full cargoes, went up as far as the foot of Bowen-street. The tradition is, that the first square rigged

¹¹ *R. I. C. R.*, VI, 286-7.

¹² Dorr, p. 93.

¹³ *R. I. C. R.*, VI, 294.

vessel that ever sailed from the port, sailed from a wharf as high up as the canal market."¹⁴

By direction of the Town Council in 1761 a revision was made of "that part of the street [Weybosset] between the Town Bridge and Muddy Bridge Dock [Dorrance Street] and of the gangways leading out of the same," an area which had been platted originally by the Proprietors in 1717 when



THE TOWN OF PROVIDENCE IN 1762

looking southwest towards Weybosset Bridge from Gaol Lane (Meeting Street). From a sketch in possession of the Hope Club, drawn by Henry A. Barker as a design for scenery in the production of "In Colony Times", a celebration play given as a part of the Brown Sesquicentennial, 1914.

thirty-five house lots were laid out on the south side of the present Weybosset Street. The changes as recorded on a plat made in January, 1762, reflecting the development of that area over a period of fifty-five years, included a widening of the highway leading from the bridge to the present Turk's Head, a "new back street" [Westminster], and a

¹⁴ Staples, p. 205. The north side of the bridge started from a point 7 feet south of the present northwest corner of Westminster Street and Washington Row and extended easterly practically in continuation of the line of Westminster Street (*Plats of Highways*, I, 22). The east abutments were approximately 30 feet west of the present North Main Street, from which point the Town Parade sloped down to the shore. See page 124, chapter III, Oct., '43.

"highway 40 feet wide" [Exchange Street] extending northerly to the cove waters.¹⁵

In June of that year it was reported to the General Assembly that the "new street . . . running directly from the Great Bridge, up to the westward, wants a great deal of filling up and raising, to render it commodious."¹⁶ Accordingly, a lottery was granted "for rendering passable and commodious a streight and very fine street, for passing to the middle of the town from all western parts."¹⁷ The street was named after the city of Westminster in England, a center of liberal opinions and politics. The choice of that name reflected the political sympathies of the West Side land owners who resented the "despotic rule" of Providence by the residents of the Neck and who even attempted to have a new town of Westminster set off which should be free from the influence of the Towne street.¹⁸

At the junction of Weybosset and Westminster Streets, then known as Whitman's Corners, stood a house erected about 1750 by Jacob Whitman, on the piazza of which was attached a "turk's head" which gave the spot its present name.¹⁹ The Turk's Head Building was erected on the site in 1913.

The first newspaper published in Providence was the *Providence Gazette and Country Journal*, the first issue of which appeared on October 20, 1762. It was edited by

¹⁵ *Plats of Highways*, I, 22. On the original *Map of the House Lots* (Street Line Dept. 051331) Weybosset Street was identified as "A High Way Forty Feet Wide." This was a section of the old Pequot path which later became a highway leading through Pawtuxet to Westerly with a branch road from Abbott Park to Plainfield, Conn. (see pages 91, 96 and map opposite page 86, chapter II, July, '43, and page 124, chapter III, Oct., '43). The house lots extended from the highway to the shore, a distance varying from 80 to 160 feet.

¹⁶ *R. I. C. R.*, VI, 356.

¹⁷ *Providence Gazette*, Oct. 19, 1763.

¹⁸ Dorr, p. 129.

¹⁹ William M. Bailey, "Turks Head and the Whitman Estate," *R. I. H. S. C.*, V, 216-222.

William Goddard, who had succeeded Samuel Chase as postmaster, and was printed "opposite the court house." An advertisement published March 16, 1765, announced that "on Tuesday next, the Post office and Printing office will be removed to the house opposite Mr. Nathan Angell's, near the sign of the Golden Eagle, where the business of both will be transacted as usual."²⁰

The first theatrical performance in Providence was a presentation of "Morro Castle taken by storm," produced by David Douglas and a company of players in a playhouse on Gaol Lane (Meeting Street) in 1762.²¹ A flood of protests immediately arose as a result of "the many mischiefs which arise from public stage plays, interludes, and other theatrical entertainments, which not only occasion great and unnecessary expenses, and discourage industry and frugality, but likewise tend generally to increase immorality, impiety and contempt of religion." Accordingly, the General Assembly passed an act in August, 1762, to prevent the carrying on of stage plays and, in order to insure its immediate enforcement, the officers of the town of Providence were directed "forthwith . . . to immediately proclaim the aforesaid act, by beat of drum, through the streets of the compact part of said town of Providence."²²

In June, 1765, a number of farmers living in the northern part of Providence petitioned the General Assembly to erect a separate township out of the northern lands. In spite of protests made by the merchants of the town against further reducing its area the petition was granted by setting off a new town, named North Providence, on the territory north of the following bounds: beginning "at the new bridge, near to the hill called Solitary Hill [near Olneyville Square]; thence, bounding on Wanasquatucket River, until

²⁰ See page 127, chapter III, Oct., '43. The "house opposite" was near the site of the present railroad viaduct on the east side of North Main St.

²¹ Staples, p. 206.

²² *R. I. C. R.*, VI, 325-26.

it comes to the north-west corner of the town's land, at the east end of a place called Forestack Meadow [the present corner of Promenade and Holden Streets]; thence, [north] easterly on a straight line to the middle of the mill bridge [Schley Square]; thence on a due east line until it comes to Seaconck River [in Blackstone Park, 500 feet north of Angell Street]. . . ."²³ This was the fourth and last reduction in the territorial limits of Providence.²⁴ The first re-annexation was effected in June, 1767, in response to a petition by merchants and tradesmen residing in a portion of the area set off in 1765 whose business connections were in Providence. The bounds, as adjusted, extended northerly from Forestack Meadow "to the northwest corner of the burying land [North Burial Ground]; and then, easterly and southerly, by said burying ground . . . until it comes to . . . Herrington's Lane [Rochambeau Avenue]; then easterly by . . . said lane until it comes to the dividing line between the lands of William Brown and Phineas Brown [now the Swan Point Cemetery-Butler Hospital line]; and then by said line easterly to Seaconck River."²⁵

The first stage coach route maintaining a regular schedule was instituted by Thomas Sabin in 1767. It carried passengers every Tuesday morning from Olney's tavern (North Main and Olney Streets) to Boston and made the return trip on Thursdays.²⁶

An attempt was made in 1767 to establish a system of free schools;²⁷ although that measure was defeated its agitation resulted in the erection of the first brick schoolhouse in Providence. It was built in 1768 on the site of the former County House²⁸ on Gaol Lane (Meeting Street) where it still stands, now used as an open-air school. Another school-

²³ *R. I. C. R.*, VI, 439.

²⁴ Previous reductions were effected in 1731, 1754 and 1759. See pp. 117, 126, chapter III, Oct., '43.

²⁵ *R. I. C. R.*, VI, 528.

²⁶ Field, II, p. 544.

²⁷ Staples, p. 496.

²⁸ See page 115, chapter III, Oct., '43.

house, known as Whipple Hall, was erected in the same year on land, near the north end of Benefit Street, conveyed by John Whipple. A committee composed of John Jenckes, John Brown, Nathaniel Greene, Charles Keene and Samuel Thurber entered into agreement with Joshua Spooner for its construction December 27, 1767, by which Spooner was "to find all the materials . . . and build a schoolhouse . . . 26 feet long, 18 feet wide, and 10 foot post to be completely finished with a little house and a good white pine fence."²⁹ The Benefit Street school (erected 1839) now stands on its site at the corner of Benefit and Halsey streets. Whipple Hall became the First District Schoolhouse upon the inauguration of the free school system in 1800.

William Goddard, editor of the *Gazette*, removed to New York a few years after its establishment and left to his mother, Mrs. Sarah Goddard, its publication and the maintenance of his printing shop. In 1767 she secured as partner John Carter of Philadelphia, a former apprentice of Benjamin Franklin.³⁰ The *Gazette* came into Carter's possession in 1768. In the following year he married Amey Crawford, sister of Mrs. John Updike who dwelt in a house, still standing, at the southwest corner of North Main and Meeting streets, and set about the erection of a building to serve as a shop and dwelling on the land east of the Updikes. The first floor was designed as a printing shop and a book store, and the upper stories as his residence. The sign of "Shakespear's Head," carved out of wood and fancifully painted, was erected upon a high pole in front of the shop.³¹ The building, now in the ownership of Shakespeare's Head Association, stands at 21 Meeting Street. It is of frame construction, three stories high above a stone basement, with a hipped roof and a large center chimney (pages 47, 50, plan "A"). John Carter was postmaster from 1772 to

²⁹ *Prov. Town Papers* 0883, Dec. 27, 1767.

³⁰ John Carter Brown Woods, "John Carter," *R. I. H. S. C.* XI, 101-107.

³¹ *R. I. H. S. C.* V, 201.

1790 and during his incumbency the post office was located in Shakespeare's Head. The immediate neighborhood, which included the Colony House, the Brick Schoolhouse, and the Quaker Meeting House (where town meetings were held) and various taverns and shops on the Town street, constituted the civic center at that period.



SHAKESPEARE'S HEAD (c. 1769)

On the hilltop of the Neck, overlooking the commercial part of Providence along the Towne street, the first college edifice was erected in 1770. The college, incorporated by act of the General Assembly, March 3, 1764, was established originally at Warren, as Rhode Island College. Having determined to remove to Providence the corporation purchased an 8-acre tract which constituted the central part of the original home lots of Daniel Abbott, Chad Brown and John Warner³² and included a lane (College Street) extending westerly to Benefit Street. The building

³² See page 32, chapter 1, Jan., 1943.

committee consisted of Stephen Hopkins, John Jenckes and John Brown. Chancellor Hopkins, President Manning and Joseph Brown were appointed a committee to prepare a complete model of the building, which resembled Nassau Hall at the College of New Jersey (Princeton) although somewhat smaller and plainer. Ground was broken March



THE COLLEGE EDIFICE (1770)

27, 1770, the foundation stone was laid May 14, and the building was opened a year later. The work was executed by the firm of Nicholas Brown and Company who volunteered to take entire charge of erecting the college building and the president's house.³³

The College Edifice, now University Hall (the name was changed by the corporation in 1823) is a four-story building, 150 feet by 46 feet with a center projection on

³³ Walter C. Bronson, *The History of Brown University* (Providence, 1914), hereafter Bronson, pp. 54-56; Reuben A. Guild, *Early History of Brown University* (Providence, 1897), pp. 139, 151.

each side. The walls are brick with segmental-arched windows and doors, and the wood cornice is broken by the pediments over the center section. The edifice has a hipped roof and a deck balustrade, and a cupola rises from the center in which a bell was installed in 1792. During the Revolutionary years, while college exercises were suspended, the building served as barracks for American and French troops. It



JOSEPH TILLINGHAST HOUSE (c. 1767)

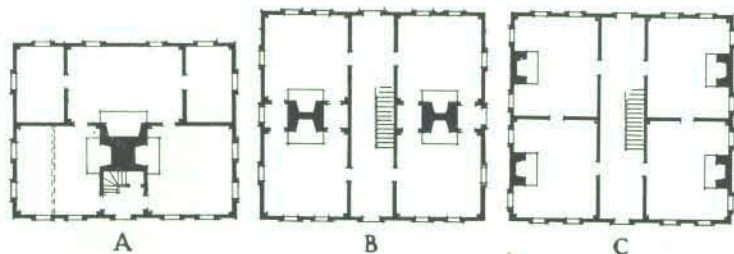
was altered many times in ensuing years and was extensively remodeled in 1942 (Perry, Shaw and Hepburn, architects).

Following a generous gift to the college by Nicholas Brown, Jr. in 1804, the corporation changed its name to Brown University. In order of founding it ranks seventh in American colleges, having been preceded by Harvard (1636), William and Mary (1693), Yale (1701), Princeton (1747), Columbia (1754), and the University of Pennsylvania (1755).³⁴

As the 18th century advanced the typical house plan underwent modifications which provided increased heating comfort during the cold winter months as well as a better

³⁴ Bronson, p. 3.

circulation acquired by means of more liberal hall space. The evolution is illustrated in the plans shown on this page. In the single chimney type of dwelling (Plan A) which had been common since the early years of the century³⁵ the small stairway hall gave access only to the front rooms. An evolution of that plan provided a central hall (Plan B) extending through the house with two rooms on each side and two center chimneys, each having back-to-back fireplaces in each pair of rooms. By a later modification, effected after the Revolutionary War, the fireplaces were set in the outside walls, each with a chimney of its own (Plan C).



TYPICAL EIGHTEENTH CENTURY HOUSE PLANS

The "B" plan is illustrated by two present-day survivors of the period, a typical frame dwelling at 403 South Main Street, erected by Captain Joseph Tillinghast about 1767 (page 49) and an elaborate brick mansion at 114 North Main Street built by Joseph and William Russell in 1772 (page 51). The gable roofed, two-and-a-half story Tillinghast house is the only well-preserved survival of the pre-Revolutionary period on the lower part of South Main Street. It has two chimneys centering on the roof ridge and two pedimented entrances, one on the front and the other leading from James Street to a side stairway hall located in the space adjoining the north chimney. The Russell mansion has three full stories, each floor marked by a belt course, and a hipped roof rises from the finely decorated cornice to a small monitor. Of particular note is the Corinthian en-

³⁵ See p. 93, chapter II, July, '43.

trance, crowned by a rich entablature with a segmental pediment. The dwelling came into possession of Zachariah Allen about 1800 and seventy-five years later it was transformed into the Clarendon Hotel, continuing as such for



RUSSELL HOUSE (1772)

another half-century. Now utilized for business purposes, raised a full story for the installation of shops, and stripped of its fine interior finish,³⁶ only a shell of its former grandeur remains.

³⁶ Much of the finish has been removed to the Brooklyn Museum.

(To be continued)

References to *Dubertus* Articles

By BRADFORD F. SWAN

Every now and then, especially when the King Charles II Charter of 1663 is being given careful perusal, the question is raised: "What was the *Dubertus*?"

The passage reads:¹

"And fforther, for the encouragement of the inhabitants of our sayd Collony of Providence Plantations to sett vpon the businesse of takeing whales, itt shall bee lawefull ffor them, or any of them, having struck whale, dubertus, or other greate ffish, itt or them, to pursue unto any parte of that coaste . . ."

The *Dubertus* was, as has often been pointed out, the fin-back whale.

But since the question has come up so many times, and since the answers to it constitute a literature of some size and explain it with eminent satisfaction, it has seemed advisable to give a brief bibliography of the subject, in order that those who wish to explore the subject fully will know where to find the desired information. Chronologically, then:

1. Letter to the *Providence Journal* of 9 Dec. 1858 by S. C. Newman of Pawtucket.

(This is an account of Newman's correspondence with Louis Agassiz, Professor of Zoology, Geology, etc., at Harvard University, requesting information on the *dubertus*. Prof. Agassiz responded that he had been unable to find any mention of the term in Nemnich's *Polyglotten Lexicon*, but that he would keep the question in mind. Newman asked for information from anyone.)

2. Letter to the *Providence Journal* of 10 Dec. 1858 by Albert G. Greene.

(This is in response to Newman's letter. Greene said the word was used to distinguish the *sperm* whale from the common or *right* whale, a conclusion not exactly correct. He went on to cite as an authority Sir Thomas Browne's *Pseudodoxia Epidimica* (1646) in which (Book III, chap. 26) the author speaks of the *jubartes*, while discussing the spermaceti whales. That Greene was right in his contention that the word *dubertus* came from *jubartes* will be seen.)

¹ As printed in *R. I. Colonial Records*, edited by Bartlett, II, 16.

3. Letter to the *Providence Journal* of 16 Feb. 1880. [Apparently from U. S. Senator Henry B. Anthony.]

(This letter gives, in full, another letter from Prof. J. Hammond Trumbull of Hartford, Conn., the noted antiquary, to Prof. Spencer Fullerton Baird of the Smithsonian Institution, to whom the question had been referred by "one of our [the R. I.] delegation" [in Congress]. Trumbull's letter is a completely adequate answer to the question. He points out that the *Dubertus* was the finback whale, its name gradually corrupted from *Gibbar*, *Gibbartas*, *Gubartas*, *Jubart*, to *Jubartes*, and cites numerous taxonomists' works in reference to use of the term. Lastly, Trumbull attributed the change from G to D to a mistake of an engrossing clerk in reading the 17th century chancery handwriting.)

4. Article in *Narragansett Historical Register* for 1888 (Vol. VI, No. 3, p. 269) by Welcome Arnold Greene. Title: *What Was the Dubertus?*

(Raises the question anew, the writer apparently not being familiar with the series of letters which had been published in the *Providence Journal*. Greene came to the conclusion, once again, that *Dubertus* was a corruption of *jubartes*, a name for the fin-back whale, and cited a passage from Capt. John Smith's "*A Description of New-England*" (London: 1616), p. 1, wherein Smith states that he chased some whales to no purpose, "They beeing a kinde of *Jubartes*, and not the Whale that yeelds Finnes [whalebone] and Oyle as wee expected.")

5. Article in *Narragansett Historical Register* for October, 1888 (Vol. VI, No. 4, p. 357) by Franklin C. Clark. Title: *The Dubertus Caught*.

(An answer to the preceding article, and a complete discussion of the subject. Dr. Clark gives not only his own deductions, but also cites numerous taxonomists, and he appends a summary of the Newman and Greene letters to the *Journal* and, in full, the Anthony letter of 1880 containing Prof. Trumbull's letter. Hence practically a complete recapitulation of the discussion, and **the best single reference**. [My opinion—B.F.S.]

- 5a. *The Dubertus Caught*, by Franklin C. Clark, M.D. pp. 12, n.p., n.d. [Probably printed in Providence in 1889.]

(A reprint of the above article.)

6. Article in *Book Notes* for 2 March 1889 (Vol. VI, No. 5, p. 34) by Sidney S. Rider.

(Praises Dr. Clark's essay.)

7. Article in *Book Notes* for 21 May 1892 (Vol. IX, No. 11, p. 124) by Sidney S. Rider.

(Mentions the finding of the name Dubartus Willard on a muster roll of the Revolution and how this recalled the *Dubertus* discussion.)

General: *Webster's New International Dictionary* defines *Gibbartus* as "Gibbar, a finback whale (obs.)," and *Funk & Wagnall's New Standard Dictionary* defines *Gibbartus* as "a finback whale, Gibbart (obs.)."

*New England Whalebone Whales*² by Glover M. Allen (Boston: 1916) also sheds some light on the taxonomic use of the precedents and variants of the term *Dubertus* in referring to *B. physalus*, the common finback whale. This study credits Lacépède³ with first using the term *Gibbar* in taxonomy, in 1803-4, and points out that Desmarest repeated it in his *Mammologie* in 1820. Allen states, however, that *B. Jubartes* was first used not by Lacépède but by Dewhurst in his *Nat. Hist. Cetacea* in 1834.

Allen also says:⁴

Among the earlier writers the Finback was often referred to as the Jubartes, or Dubertus, which was further shortened to Gibbar, Jubart, or corrupted to Jupiter-fish. The origin of these names is perhaps from the Latin jubatus meaning 'fringed with long hair,' a term therefore, descriptive of the long hanging bristles of the whalebone plates. Another and equally probable supposition is that the word comes from the provincial name Gibbar of the Biscayne fishermen, which is in Latin *gibbero dorso* (with a hump on the back). At the present time these names seem to have dropped out of use.

² Vol. 8, No. 2 in the *Memoirs of the Boston Society of Natural History: Monographs on the Natural History of New England*. A copy of this work has recently been presented to the Society's library by Henry D. Sharpe.

³ Author of *Nat. Hist. des Cétacés*.

⁴ *op. cit.*, p. 179. This material from Allen is given here because it does not seem to duplicate any offered by the other writers.

The Political Consequences of the Burning of the Gaspee

by EUGENE WULSIN

(Concluded from *Rhode Island History*, Volume III, No. 1, p. 11)

When Lord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia, finally called the House of Burgesses into session on March 4, Lee, Jefferson, Henry, Carr, and the others were ready with their motion for a committee of correspondence. Other matters occupied the first few days of the session, but finally on March 11, Dabney Carr put the motion before the House. Lee, Henry, and Jefferson all spoke strongly in its behalf and what seemed like a harmless motion passed almost unanimously. A standing committee of correspondence and inquiry of eleven members was to be appointed, "whose business it shall be to obtain the most early and authentic intelligence of all such Acts and Resolutions of the British Parliament, or proceedings of the Administration, as may relate to or affect the British colonies in America; and to keep up and maintain a correspondence and communication with our sister colonies, respecting these important considerations."²⁸

It was further resolved "that it be an instruction to said committee that they do without delay inform themselves particularly of the principles and authority on which was constituted a court of inquiry, said to have been lately held in Rhode Island, with power to transport persons accused of offenses committed in America, to places beyond the seas to be tried."²⁹

This committee differed from the Massachusetts ones in two major respects. It was appointed by and responsible to the legislature and functioned as an organ of that body, whereas the Massachusetts committees were chosen by the towns and had no connection with the General Court in

²⁸ *Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1773-1776*. J. P. Kennedy, ed. (Richmond, 1905), p. 28.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 28.

Boston. The Virginia committee also was intended primarily as the beginning of an inter-colonial system by which the legislatures of the various colonies could communicate with one another and discuss measures of national concern. The Boston system under Sam Adams was formed merely to unite the towns within the colony and to discuss local as well as national issues. It was more personal and directly connected with the people and thus was in a better position to control public opinion. Adams hoped to extend his organization to all the colonies sometime in the future, for he was too great a patriot to confine himself or any revolutionary organization to one colony. The Virginia action merely brought its realization sooner than he expected.

The relative importance of these two systems in American history and the part each played in the assembling of the first Continental Congress in 1774 has been the subject of considerable debate between historians ever since. Neither system had time enough to become organized as a full time organ of national sentiment before being superseded by the Continental Congress, which absorbed most of the duties and value of the inter-colonial committees.

In some colonies the delegates to the Congress of 1774 were chosen by the legislature, and in these the standing committees took an important part. In others the delegates came directly from districts where the local committees, fashioned after the Massachusetts model, held sway. In Connecticut the legislative committee of correspondence chose the delegates directly. In New Hampshire, Virginia, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland committees appointed by towns or counties met together and selected their representatives. In Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania the Assemblies chose their men, while in New York the nominations were made in a vote by wards, and in South Carolina a general meeting sufficed.³⁰ The varying methods of appointing men to Congress employed by the eleven colonies which sent delegates show that both the

³⁰ *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789* (Washington, 1904), vol. 1, pp. 15-24.

legislative and local town committees of correspondence had a part in choosing the forty-five congressmen. How much of a part the committees played in the minds of Americans in the months preceding the elections as a means for union is almost impossible to answer.

The two systems, growing together, complemented each other, and each had its own role to play. To exclude one as a factor in forming the revolution in favor of the other is really looking at only one side of their existence. As Dr. Leake³¹ points out, the Virginia committee had two functions as outlined in the resolution of March, 1773: first, to obtain authentic information of the acts of Parliament or the administration affecting or relative to the American colonies; second, to maintain correspondence with the other colonies. The assembly-appointed committees were in a better position to perform both of these tasks than were the local ones, for several of the assemblies were in direct communication with agents in London. Where the assembly committees left off the local committees took up the fight, passing the news along to the counties and villages in the colony. Because they were not responsible to anyone and because they had direct contact with the people, these town committees could be and were more revolutionary in their practice, opinions and methods. It was in them that the revolution was fostered, but where actions or motions by the elected assemblies were in order, the accompanying committees provided an excellent channel for passing abroad these motions and actions.

Whatever may have since been said to discredit the importance of the Virginia resolution of March 12, 1773, the news of its passage was acclaimed by Americans and supporters of American rights from Florida to Canada, and even from far off London. Although the session soon ended, the committees, consisting of Peyton Randolph, speaker of the House of Burgesses and later president of the

³¹ J. M. Leake, "The Virginia Committee System and the American Revolution", *Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science*, Series XXXV, No. 1 (Baltimore, 1917), pp. 86-148.

first Continental Congress, R. C. Nicholas, Richard Bland, Richard Henry Lee, Benjamin Harrison, Edmund Pendleton, Patrick Henry, Dudley Diggs, Dabney Carr, Archibald Carey, and Thomas Jefferson met the next day to prepare a circular letter to all the colonial legislatures, in accordance with the terms of the resolution. This letter enclosed a copy of the resolution and a request to all the colonies to appoint committees of their own to correspond with the Virginia committee.

The response from individuals was more immediate than from other colonies. Richard Henry Lee wrote to John Dickinson in Philadelphia on April 4 that he had little accurate knowledge of the proceedings in Rhode Island, but "they [the Virginia assembly] have now adopted a measure which from the beginning of the present disputes they should have fixed on, as leading to that union and perfect understanding of each other on which the salvation of America so eminently depends. . . . I sincerely hope that every colony in the continent will adopt the committees of correspondence and inquiry."³² Sam Adams called it "a measure that I think must be attended with great and good consequences,"³³ and said, "the reception of the truly patriotic resolves of the House of Burgesses of Virginia gladdens the hearts of all who are friends to liberty."³⁴ Samuel Cooper wrote to Benjamin Franklin, "Virginia has led the way. . . . The letter from their committee was received here with no little joy, and the proposal agreed to in the most ready and respectful manner."³⁵ Franklin, two months later, wrote home to Thomas Cushing, "There are brave spirits among that people. . . . It is natural to suppose, as you do, that, if the aggressions continue, a congress may

³² Letter from R. H. Lee to John Dickinson, April 4, 1773, in Lee *Letters*, vol. 1, pp. 83-84.

³³ Letter from Sam Adams to R. H. Lee, April 10, 1773, in Adams, *Writings*, vol. 3, p. 27.

³⁴ Letter from Sam Adams to R. H. Lee, April 10, 1773, in Adams, *Writings*, vol. 3, p. 27.

³⁵ Letter from Cooper to Franklin, April 14, 1773, in Franklin, *Works of Benjamin Franklin*, Sparks, ed. (Boston, 1840), vol. 8, pp. 49-50.

grow out of that correspondence. Nothing would more alarm our ministers."³⁶ The minds of most men seemed to be dominated at the time by ideas of union and they saw in the Virginia suggestion the best means uncovered up to that time. Franklin's statement about the apprehension of the ministers is borne out by William Lee, brother of Richard Henry Lee, who writes from London, January 1, 1774, "it struck a greater panic in the ministers than anything that had taken place since the passage of the Stamp Act."³⁷

The news of the Virginia Resolves was widely acclaimed in the other colonies, but not all of them responded immediately with official action by their respective assemblies. *The Newport Mercury*, which for over two months had been full of the constitutional argument between Governor Hutchinson and the Massachusetts legislature, now burst forth with the Virginia resolutions.³⁸ The Rhode Island Assembly, perhaps flattered by the importance accorded their colony, met on May 8³⁹ and immediately appointed a committee to give other colonies information on the proceedings of the Commission and other acts.⁴⁰

A letter in the *Newport Mercury* from the town of Boston to its newly elected representatives showed that Massachusetts would not be far behind. It declared, "We recommend to your serious consideration whether an application to the English colonies on this continent correspondent to the plan proposed by our noble, patriotic sister colony of Virginia (which in our opinion is a wise and salutary proposal) will not secure our threatened liberties and restore that mutual harmony and confidence between the British nation and the colonies."⁴¹ The Boston committee sent a

³⁶ Letter from Franklin to Cushing, June 7, 1773, *Ibid.*, vol. 8, pp. 49-50.

³⁷ Charles Campbell, *History of Virginia* (Philadelphia, 1860), p. 570; William W. Henry, *Patrick Henry* (New York, 1891), vol. 1, p. 168.

³⁸ *Newport Mercury*, April 19, 1773.

³⁹ *R. I. Col. Records*: vol. 7, p. 227 (note); Stiles, *Diary*, vol. 1, p. 373.

⁴⁰ *Newport Mercury*, May 10, 1773.

⁴¹ *Newport Mercury*, May 17, 1773.

copy of the resolves to every town in the province.⁴² It was only a matter of time until the Assembly met and joined the growing union. On May 28 it convened and immediately adopted the Virginia resolutions.^{43 44 45}

Meanwhile, Connecticut on May 21 appointed a committee of correspondence "to keep up and maintain a strict and happy union with her sister colonies." The other colonies followed suit and by February 8, 1775, each of them had taken a stand on the Resolves.⁴⁶

Thus for better or for worse the thirteen colonies found themselves closer to union than they had been for eight years. The threat of a united America and machinery to make it effective were brought into existence simultaneously.

As one by one the colonial legislatures were setting up their committees of correspondence, the ill-fated *Gaspee* Commission which had been the cause of so much ill feeling and concern and had accomplished so little, met again in the courthouse in Newport. Admiral Montagu excused himself again and transferred his authority to Captain Robert Keeler of the sloop *Mercury*, then in Newport Harbor. Like Dudingston, Keeler must have experienced the wrath of the merchants of Rhode Island for he dared not come ashore for fear of being arrested.⁴⁷

On June 1, 1773, the Commissioners once more started gathering evidence. They received the depositions of William Dickinson and Bartholomew Cheever, two seamen from the *Gaspee* who had testified a year before. Testimonies were also taken from several men from Providence and a relative of the runaway negro Aaron Briggs who discounted the negro's story, but nothing new on which to base

⁴² Letter from Sam Adams to R. H. Lee, April 10, 1773, Adams Writings, vol. 3, p. 27.

⁴³ *R. I. Col. Records*, vol. 7, p. 230.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 7, pp. 228-239.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 287-88.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 234.

⁴⁷ Admiral Montagu to the Commissioners June 14, 1773, Captain Robert Keeler to the Commissioners, May 27, 1773, Bartlett, *op. cit.*, pp. 114-5.

any conviction came to light. Four justices of the Superior Court of Rhode Island called upon by the Commissioners to examine the evidence, came to the same conclusion.⁴⁸ The only times any names were mentioned in connection with the crime were in the testimony offered by Aaron Briggs and Peter May, a seaman of the *Gaspee*. Briggs' testimony was disproved, and May only mentioned someone named Greene, of whom there were many hundreds in the colony. The whole proceeding had been a fiasco, and if it had not carried with it such grave possibilities, it would have passed on without much notice. Realizing the absurdity of wasting more time over an impossible investigation, the Commission broke up on June 23, 1773, a little more than a year after the destruction of the schooner. They dispatched a report of their findings to the King and Lord Dartmouth, expressing again their intense loyalty to the Crown and their devotion to duty. The complete failure on the part of the Commissioners to produce any tangible evidence of worth indicates that in spite of their expressed zeal towards the job at hand they perhaps were not too eager after all to send fellow Americans to stand in Execution Dock. During the whole of the proceedings they were perpetually treading on thin ice, and, with the eyes of all upon them, they realized that one false move might bring disaster. If they had taken advantage of the power given them by the Crown to call troops from Boston, the revolution probably would have started in 1773 instead of two years later.

The Virginia Resolution and committee of correspondence also came as a warning which the Commission could not ignore. Before it assembled at Newport in May, 1773, two colonies had already followed the lead of the "Old Dominion," and sentiment in other colonies showed that they would not be far behind. The five Commissioners, all students of law and government, certainly read into the Virginia proposal the signs of a general union in Congress if a provocation arose.

⁴⁸ Bartlett, *op. cit.*, pp. 114-24.

Dr. Ezra Stiles, in Newport at the time, expresses this feeling in his diary.

"I apprehend something severe would have been done by the present Commissioners had not the Commission given an extensive Alarm to all the Assemblies upon the Continent, and occasioned the Resolutions and Measures proposed by the Virginia Assembly in March last, which are now circulating, and will undoubtedly become universal. . . . *These Assembly Committees will finally terminate in a General Congress*, than which Nothing more alarming to the Ministry—and nothing more contributed to this and to establish a Union and Confederacy of the Colonies than this stroke which they all feel of sending for Persons 3000 Miles across the Water for Trial." ⁴⁹

This feeling, although almost prophetic, was the general opinion circulating at the time. The suggestion that the Commissioners were tempered in their investigation by the news from Virginia is certainly not out of place. ⁵⁰ They were well aware of the states of mind of the colonists, who felt, as Dr. Stiles notes, "a Congress had been sure, if one person had been seized & carried off from Rh. Island." He also intimates that instructions from England "has contributed to letting the matter go off easily." ⁵¹

Whatever the reasons for the failure of the Commission, it is quite certain that it was willing to break off the investigation and go home. In the report to the King the Commissioners disclosed the official reasons for their failure. They concluded "both from the unforeseen event of the *Gaspee's* running on shore, the suddenness of the undertaking and its accomplishment, and total want of evidence of even an intention to destroy her, that the whole was conducted suddenly and secretly." They tried in part to justify the act by saying "that in some instances Lieutenant Dudingston, from an intemperate, if not a reprehensible zeal to aid the revenue service, exceeded the bounds of duty," and closed the report with the statement that since the civil magistrates, to whom the Commission must turn for arrests,

⁴⁹ Stiles, *Diary*, vol. 1, pp. 384-85.

⁵⁰ Tyler, *History of Virginia* (Chicago and New York, 1924), vol. 2, p. 115.

⁵¹ Stiles, *Diary*, vol. 1, p. 385.

had flatly refused to make them on the strength of the evidence at hand, and since no new evidence seemed likely to be uncovered, they had ended the inquiry. ⁵²

W. R. Staples, in reviewing the case, is amazed by the complete lack of witnesses and evidence, for he says, "it would be doing a great injustice to the memories and characters of Governor Wanton, Judges Horsmanden, Oliver and Auchmuty to suppose that they suppressed any evidence or did not exert themselves to the utmost to procure testimony." ⁵³ There certainly were plenty of witnesses available if only someone had given them away. Perhaps to do justice to the memories of the five Commissioners, the blame for the failure must fall on the stubborn people of Rhode Island. As Justice Horsmanden says in writing to the Earl of Dartmouth, "It would require a gentleman of very extraordinary qualifications and abilities to adventure upon the first arduous task for modelling them into due subordination and decorum." ⁵⁴

Just as the news of the Commission had stirred up the colonists and had prompted them to action, so the complete failure of the Commission to take any unpopular—or what the Americans considered illegal—moves removed most of the incentive to that action. If the Virginia resolves of March, 1773, moderated the proceedings of the Rhode Island court in May and June, 1773, the collapse of the investigation slowed down the move toward a congress inherent in the resolves. It was left for the Tea Act, passed by Parliament in May, 1773, to incite the Americans to another act of defiance, the Boston Tea Party, in December, 1773. This brought such severe retaliation from England in the form of the five "intolerable" acts, that the union,

⁵² The Reports of the Commissioners to the King, Bartlett, *op. cit.*, pp. 127-30.

⁵³ W. R. Staples, *The Documentary History of the Destruction of the Gaspee* (Providence, 1845), p. 55.

⁵⁴ Letter from Chief Justice Horsmanden to the Earl of Dartmouth, February 20, 1773, Bartlett, *op. cit.*, p. 133.

which might have come in the summer of 1773, finally was achieved in the fall of 1774.

The Gaspee affair and Commission became a dead letter after June, 1773, but it had left its mark on the American political scene. The end of the proceedings is hailed as the end of the issue of Royal Instructions.⁵⁵ The attempt of the King to rule the people of America by setting up extralegal courts was thwarted. It was obvious that such a court could do no better than the established ones, and only incurred the wrath and indignation of the colonists. "The late affair in Rhode Island" also stood on the statute books of several colonies in June, 1773, in connection with the resolutions appointing committees of correspondence, and would be brought up again during the next few months as, one by one, the colonies fell in line behind Virginia.

The intangible evidence is more difficult to trace but it exists just the same. The incident had excited considerable consternation along the coastline during the winter of 1773, and had served to convince the people that no mercy was to be expected from the King. Its part in creating a revolutionary organization starting in Virginia has already been traced. Whether, in the final analysis, it can be given an important role in bringing about the ultimate break in 1775 is a difficult problem to decide. When the clash started, so many events of importance had superseded the *Gaspee* affair that few people probably remembered the importance accorded it in 1773. As a British failure it was not nearly as ominous as other more recent successes. In Rhode Island the memory remained brightest. It was the second contribution that the smallest of the colonies made towards twisting the lion's tail, a contribution which under different circumstances might have been the most important. Yet in 1773 the colonies were not ready for war or independence. The *Gaspee* incident was one of the many which convinced them by 1776 that first war, then independence, was necessary.

⁵⁵ Frothingham, *op. cit.*, p. 286.

A Survey of Painting in Rhode Island

A survey of the history of painting in Rhode Island has been started by Alan Burroughs, acting under a grant to Edward W. Forbes, Director of the Fogg Art Museum of Harvard University. Every Rhode Islander is asked to cooperate in making this necessary project successful.

In response to my request that he explain the value of the study Mr. Burroughs wrote:

"To an appreciable extent, the history of a state consists of the lives of the people who made it. This survey of Rhode Island painting will, in a literal sense, symbolize state history. The art of painting in all of the States, from the very beginning to well into the 19th century, has recorded actual appearances and has been the means of memorializing a people and, to a lesser degree, of preserving views. Its factual purpose makes it valuable source material. It reveals through the years changes in taste and social condition which are less evident in written histories of events.

"In Rhode Island, paintings make history in this double sense with what is, as yet, tantalizing incompleteness. A very few early portraits, Dutch and Anglo-Dutch in character, suggest the cultural limitations of the first settlements. The following several types of workmanship reveal the variety of conditions in independent communities. And in later years the successive styles surely reflect the economic growth of genetic centers of cultural activity. The importation of art and the exportation of artists (need one name Stuart?) seem to typify the pattern of State development.

"Unfortunately, but little is actually known about Rhode Island painting. There are, for example, only eight supposedly 17th century portraits recorded publicly; and of these, two appear to be copies or inventions, while two others—said to have been imported from England in 1680—show costumes of a generation later. Among the group of pre-Smith portraits, dating from the early 18th century, none have been traced to a certain origin, though several were evidently done by the same painter. Several

strong portraits of Revolutionary times remain unidentified either as to artist or sitter. Notwithstanding that considerable material is held in historical societies, the art historian wanders through a maze of conjectures.

"The program which will discover the actual history of Rhode Island painting is far simpler than its achievement will be. Pictures publicly owned or published are easily indexed. The real task is the listing of paintings which have remained unpublished—those in the individual homes—of whose owners co-operative efforts are asked to bring them to light. The scope of the study must include not only portraits, miniatures and landscapes, but story pictures, wall decorations, ship pictures and sign paintings. It is important to know what "old masters" were acquired by whom, and when. It is also important to know what pictures, produced or formerly owned in the State, have left it now. Although the earliest paintings will naturally attract the most attention, the investigation must deal with those of the early 19th century in order to complete the cycles of development begun earlier.

"The information needed from the individual owners includes the identification of the subject, the artist, date done, original ownership and history down to the present. Such a survey is really a venture in which it is hoped that those who own paintings will supply the facts to the best of their ability."

Anyone desiring to assist should write to him: Alan Burroughs, Little Compton, R. I. W. G. R.

Wanted—Rhode Island Directories

Bristol—from 1939 through 1943.
 Cranston and Johnston—1940-1943.
 Cumberland and Lincoln—1938-1943.
 East Providence—1940-1943.
 Jamestown and New Shoreham—1938-1943.
 Newport—1940-1943.
 Pawtucket, Central Falls and Woonsocket—1940-1943.

Pemberton of St. Albans

and

The Mother of Roger Williams

by G. ANDREWS MORIARTY, A.M., LL.B., F.S.A.

(Continued from *Rhode Island History*, Volume III, p. 30)

CHANCERY SUITS.

BILL by ROGER PEMBERTON of St. Albans, Gent., and Robert Groome of Redbourne, co. Herts., Yeoman, vs. Robert Sibley of Redbourne for a message acquired by the Orators on 18 Sept. 1593. Bill dated after 30 Sept. 1593 [Court of Requests B. 36, no. 53; REGISTER, vol. 78, p. 273].

BILL in Chancery dated 27 Nov. 1626 by SIDRACH WILLIAMS of London, merchant, vs. Thomas Bridgeman of Exeter, co. Devon, gent., concerning a contract made in February 1621 with William Clobery of London, merchant, for serges and perpetuanas [kind of cloth]. [Chanc. Proc. James I; REGISTER, vol. 75, p. 234].

BILL of SIDRACH WILLIAMS of London, merchant, dated 28 May 1628, vs. John Freeman of Dedham, clothier, touching a contract made in April 1624 for certain cloths. The answer of Freeman, dated 31 May 1628, shews that Williams was a Turkey Merchant shipping cloths to Turkey [Chanc. Proc. James I C. 3, B. 418/216; REGISTER, vol. 75, p. 234]. [Roger Williams mentions the fact that he had a brother who was a Turkey Merchant.]

Undated BILL, but about 1635, by SIDRACH WILLIAMS of Putney, co. Surrey, Gent., vs. William Langhorne concerning herrings shipped in 1625 by Williams to Langhorne and Thomas Harbie, English merchants at Leghorne in Italy [Court of Requests Charles I, B. 44, Pt. 2; REGISTER, vol. 78, p. 274].

Undated BILL (1625-35 about) by SIDRACH WILLIAMS of London, merchant, vs. Bartholomew Gilman of London, merchant, touching a deal in "sea horses teeth" [walrus teeth] from Greenland. The bill shows that they were shipped from London to Constantinople and that the Complainant Williams, while returning from Italy to England, was arrested by the Inquisition at Milan and held in prison a long time [Court of Requests Charles I, B. 751; REGISTER, vol. 88, p. 387].

LAY SUBSIDIES.

St. Albans 34-36 Henry VIII (1542-45).

Myddleward.

Robert Wooley in goods 3/4.

St. Stephen's Ward. Mother Stoke widow in lands 2d.

Henry Stoke in goods 2/.

[Lay Subsidies P. R. O. Herts. 121/158].

St. Albans 8 Elizabeth (1565-66).

Myddleward.

Robert Pemberton in goods, value £3.....3/.

St. Albans 18 Elizabeth (1575/6)/

Myddleward.

John Arnold goods £3.....5d.

Ralph Moore goods £3.....5d.

Robert Pemberton goods £3.....5d.

Robert Woolley goods £26.....4/3/4.

Thomas Woolley goods £3.....5d.

[Lay Sub. P.R.O., Herts. 121/228].

[cf. REGISTER, vol. 78, p. 272].

INQUISITIONS POST MORTEM.

MARY, late wife of Raphael Pemberton Esq.

Inquisition taken at Hatfield 3 Sept. 8 James I (1610).

She was seised in fee of the manor of Sopwell and the mansion house called Sopwell within St. Peter's and St. Stephen's parishes in St. Albans and of the advowson of St. Stephen's vicarage and of other lands [named] in these parishes including Sopwell mill in St. Peter's.

By indenture, dated 8 May 1 James (1603) between the said Raphael Pemberton, Esq., and Mary his wife of the one part, and Robert Honeywood, Esq., and Ralph Gill, Gent., of the other part, they agreed, in consideration of the marriage to be solemnized between Richard Sadler, Gent. (one of the sons of Edward Sadler Esq. and Anne his wife, sister of the said Mary Pemberton) and Joyce, daughter of the said Robert Honeywood and in consideration of £1000 paid by Robert to Raphael and Mary as a marriage portion of the said Joyce, that Raphael and Mary should levy and did levy a fine to the uses on certain of the above specified lands to the use of the said Richard and Joyce for their lives and on the other of the above specified lands to the use of the said Mary Pemberton for life and to that of the said Richard Sadler and, after the decease of the survivor, to the use of the said Joyce for life. The messuage called Sopwell and the advowson of St. Stephen's were settled to the use of the said Raphael and Mary for their lives and after the death of the survivor to the use of the said Richard Sadler in fee tail, remainder to the use of Edward Sadler, brother of Richard in fee tail, remainder to the use of Thomas, brother of Edward, remainder to the use of Lewis Norwich, Gent., remainder to the use of Dorothy Sadler, sister of the said Richard, remainder to the right heirs of Richard.

Mary Pemberton died seised on 31 May last past, and Anne Norwich, now the wife of Ralph Norwich and formerly the wife of Edward Sadler, Esq., father of the said Richard, is sister and next heir of the said Mary, and was aged 60 years and more at the death of her sister.

The above premises, with two exceptions, were held of the King *in capite* by knight's service.

After the making of the abovementioned indenture Richard and Joyce were married. [Inq. P. M. Series II., Vol. 317, No. 101.]

ROGER PEMBERTON.

Inquisition taken on the death of Roger Pemberton, Esq., at Chipping Barnett 17 May 4 Charles I (1628).

Roger Pemberton and one James Williams were seised in fee of a messuage called Hedges in St. Peters Parish, St. Albans, together with 80 acres to the same belonging, and of Bocketts alias Bockas fields, Spenser's fields (late in the tenure of William Spenser) &c., which were bought by the said Roger and the said James from Raphael Pemberton, Esq., and Anne [*sic*, Mary] his wife.

The said Roger and John, his son and heir apparent, were seised also of lands (specified) in the parishes of St. Stephens and St. Peters, late parcel of the Manor of Parke alias Parkesbury bought by the said Roger and John from William Coles and James Mayne, Gentlemen.

The said Roger was also seised of a meadow, parcel of a farm called Potters Crouch in St. Stephen's parish, which he had in fee simple by the will of Robert Stokes &c. Being so seised by indenture dated 10 Jan. 7 James I (1609/10) between the said Roger (of the town of St. Albans, Gent.), said John (son and heir apparent of the said Roger) and the said James Williams (citizen and merchant of London) of the one part and William Angell³ (citizen and baker of London) and Robert Angell (citizen and merchant of London) of the other part, the above premises were granted to the said William and Robert to the use of the said John Pemberton and Katherine Angell for their lives, &c.

Said Roger was also seised of a messuage called Leaden Porch &c. in St. Albans and of closes and pastures called Bromefeilds in St. Michael's parish (in St. Albans), of closes (specified) in St. Stephen's parish and of a messuage called the Castle in St. Albans &c. and the messuage on Shenleyhill in Shenley parish (in St. Albans) and by indenture dated 10 April 41 Eliz. (1599) between the said Roger of the one part and James Clarke of the Middle Temple, London, Esq., Edward Cottell of London, Gent., James Pemberton,⁴ citizen and goldsmith of London and James Williams, citizen and merchant taylor of London of the other part, the said Roger conveyed the above premises to the parties of the second part to the use of himself for life and then the use of his will and a fine was levied in Trinity Term 41 Eliz. Thereafter, by indenture dated 10 Oct. 14 James I (1616) between the said Roger of the first part and Ralph Pemberton, Gent., one of the sons of the said Roger of the second part and Francis Kempe of London, Gent., of the third part, the said Roger revoked the uses declared in his indenture of 10 April 41 Elzi. and limited the house called Leaden Porch to the use of himself for life, if the said Ralph should survive him and, if the said Ralph should die, then to the use of Frances Kempe, daughter of the said Francis Kempe for life as a jointure &c.

Said Roger was also seised of a capital messuage in the parish of St. Mary-le-Bow, London, late in the tenure of Robert Pemberton and of a messuage in Shenley parish and by indenture dated 30 Aug. 14 James I (1616) he settled the same in favour of Robert Pemberton, one of his sons, and Susannah, daughter of Roger Glover, (citizen and pewterer of London.

Said Roger was also seised of a messuage called Neales and of other lands in Luton, Lygrave, Lymbery, Biscott and Caddington, co. Beds. and of lands in Northchurch alias North Barkhamsted and of the reversion, after the death of Ellen Woolley, widow, of a tenement and lands in Bishop's Hatfield and of the reversion, after the death of the said Ellen, of the inn called the George in St. Albans, by virtue of an indenture dated 10 July 22 James I (1624) between the said Roger of the first part, Robert Woolley of Harpesfield Hall in St. Peters parish, Gent., of the second part and Ralph Pemberton, son of the said Roger, of the third part, whereby the premises were limited to the use of Elizabeth, wife of the said Roger, and after her death to the use of Elizabeth, daughter of the said John Pemberton for eight years after the deaths of Roger and Elizabeth his wife, and then to the use of Robert, son of John Pemberton &c. Maudlyns was limited to the use of Elizabeth, wife of Roger, while she remained a widow or died and then to the use of the said Ralph. Somereys messuage was limited, after the death of Roger, to the use of Tecla, daughter of the said Roger and wife of Robert Woolley, and after her death, to the use of William, son of the said Robert and Tecla. The inn called the George was limited, after Roger's death, to the use of Helen Woolley, daughter of the said Robert.

Said Roger was also seised of the manor of Shelton alias Shelton Wotton and of four messuages and lands in Wotton Shelton and Marston alias Marston Moreton (*i.e.*, Morteyne), co. Beds.

Roger Pemberton died 13 Nov. 1st past, and John Pemberton, Esq., is his son and heir, and at Roger's death he was aged 30 years and more.

Hedges Farm and the other premises bought of Raphael Pemberton are held *in capite* by knight's services. Proudles Croft, bought of William Coles is held *in capite* by Knight's service and Leaden Porch and the Castle in St. Albans are held of the King in socage. Bromefields is held of Sir Charles Morrison Knt. & Bart, as of his manor of Park &c.

Elizabeth, relict of Roger survives at St. Albans; Ellen Woolley, widow, died 8 May last past. [Inq. P.M. 6 Charles I, Pt. 3., No. 50].

RALPH PEMBERTON.

Inquisition taken at Bishop's Hatfield on 25 April 21 Chas. I (1645), after the death of Ralph Pemberton, Gent.

Said Ralph was seised in reversion expectant on the death or marriage of his mother, Elizabeth Pemberton, widow, of Maudlines and lands in Northchurch, alias North Berkhamsted, and was also seised in fee tail, viz., to him and the heirs male of his body on Frances his wife, and

in reversion, after the deaths of Elizabeth Pemberton and Frances Pemberton, of the Castle in St. Albans and the Leaden Porch &c. and of land in St. Michael's and St. Stephen's parishes.

Said Ralph was also seised of two messuages in Dagnell St. in St. Albans &c.

Ralph made his will on 6 Oct. last past and devised to Ralph his second son and to Frances Pemberton his daughter the messuages in Dagnell Lane &c and the farm called Mawdlins to the said Ralph his second son and to his daughter Anne Pemberton his messuage in Cooke Row &c.

Said Ralph died on 9 Oct. last past and Francis Pemberton is his son and heir, and was aged 20 years on 20 July last past.

Elizabeth Pemberton the mother and Frances Pemberton the widow of Ralph survive. (Miscell. Inq. 20 Charles I. Pt. 26. No. 76).

JOHN PEMBERTON

Inquisition taken at Hatfield Episcopi alias Hatfield Regis on 29 May 21 Chas. I (1645) after the death of John Pemberton.

John Pemberton was seised of divers lands (specified) in the parishes of St. Peter's and St. Stephen's in St. Albans, held of the King *in capite* by knight's service.

Elizabeth Pemberton widow of the said John survives at St. Albans and is dowered of 1/3 part of the premises.

John Pemberton died 1 Feb. (this is at variance with his burial entry) last past and John Pemberton Esq. is his son and heir and at his father's death was aged 23 years and more. (Miscell. Inq. 21 Chas. I. Pt. 26. No. 64).

[For fuller abstracts of the above Inquisitions Post Mortem see "The Herts. Genealogist and Antiquary," vol. III, pp. 240-244].

HERTS FEET OF FINES.

Trinity Term 41 Eliz. (1599).

James Clarke Esq., Edward Cottell, Gent., James Pemberton, and James Williams, querants, vs. Roger Pemberton, Gent., and Elizabeth his wife, deforciant for six messuages and lands in St. Albans in the parishes of Shenley, St. Michael's and St. Stephen's. [Herts. Gen. & Ant., *op. cit.*, p. 268].

RECORDS OF THE MERCHANT TAYLOR'S COMPANY OF LONDON.

James Williams admitted to the Freedom of the Company by servitude to Nicholas Tresswell on 7 April 1587.

Sydrack Williams, son of James Williams, admitted to the Freedom of the Company by patrimony, 20 Feb. 1620/21.

On 6 March 1625/6 Sydrack Williams, Merchant Taylor and also a merchant to Turkey and Italy took as an apprentice Robert Williams, son of James Williams, Citizen and Merchant Taylor. [REGISTER, vol. 43, p. 427].

(To be continued)

Some Recent Accessions

From Mrs. Frederic B. Read, a framed water-color sketch of a view of the Beneficent Congregational Parsonage on the west side of the river, Providence, 1795.

From Mr. Russell Grinnell, Three Journals kept by Capt. J. B. Smith, of the Schooner "Lydia," (1886, 1887, 1888), owned by Mr. Frederick Grinnell.

From Mr. Henry D. Sharpe, "The Whalebone Whales of New England," by Glover M. Allen, 1916; *Memoirs of the Boston Soc. of Natural History*, vol. 8, No. 2.

From Miss Mary B. Anthony, photograph showing Governor R. Livingston Beeckman signing the Act granting the right of Suffrage to women in Rhode Island, April, 1917, and pen used by the Governor.

From Charles A. Gale, *The Howlands in America*, edited and compiled by William Howland (Detroit, 1939).

From the compiler, Mr. Wilbur Brown, West Barrington, Manuscript of Additions and Corrections for insertion in Austin's *Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island*.

From the author, Raymond H. Trott, *A Down East Merchant Fleet*. Reprinted from *Neptune*.

From the compiler, Mrs. Arthur F. Short, the type-written manuscript, *Descendants of Andrew Warde*, by Stephen H. Ward.

From the author, Carl Raymond Woodward, *Ploughs and Politicks* (New Brunswick, N. J., 1941).

From Mrs. Joseph Warren Greene, Jr., of Wickford, R. I., manuscript relating to the sale of the Ashton Burying Ground, corner of Hope and John St., Providence, 1848.

From Miss Dorothea Lyman, Picture of the Sprague Six-Horse Hitch.

From Mr. Paul C. Nicholson, a manuscript bearing the date of April 19, 1787 — notarized "public Instrument of Protest," by Edward Forbes, against Aaron Sheffield.

By gift and by exchange the publications listed on the opposite page.

Recent Publications of Interest to Rhode Island

"The Landing of Roger Williams," by Alonzo Chappel, *Museum Notes*, Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Vol. 2, No. 2, February, 1944.

"Additions and Corrections to Austin's Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island," by G. Andrews Moriarty. *The American Genealogist*, Vol. XX, No. 3, January, 1944, pp. 181-87.

"The Defense of Slavery in the Northern Press on the Eve of the Civil War," by Howard C. Perkins. *The Journal of Southern History*, Vol. IX, No. 4, November, 1943, pp. 501-31.

"What is the Function of a Historical Society?" by William G. Roelker. *Vermont Quarterly*, Vol. XII, (New Series), No. 1, January, 1944, pp. 28-31.

"The First Baptist Church, Providence, Rhode Island," by Rev. Henry M. King, D.D. *Old-Time New England*, Vol. XXXIV, No. 3, January, 1944, pp. 39-43.

"Tradition of Mary Dyer, Quaker Martyr," by Mrs. Harry Clark Boden. *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. XCVIII, January, 1944, pp. 25-28.

"The Mother of Christopher Helme," by Richard LeBaron Bowen. *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. XCVIII, January, 1944, pp. 11-25.

"The Ancestry of John Throckmorton of Providence," by G. Andrews Moriarty. *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. XCVIII, January, 1944, pp. 67-72.

The Old Post Road, by Carder H. Whaley. Typewritten, with map. 1944.

The Town That Saved a State — Westerly, by Mary Agnes Best. (Westerly, 1943).

Pawtuxet Valley Almanac, Mathias P. Harpin, Ed. (Times Print, 1943).

The Dark Days of Social Welfare at the State Institutions at Howard, Rhode Island, by Dr. Henry A. Jones. (Department of Social Welfare, 1944.)

Francis Wayland, A Neglected Pioneer of Higher Education, by William G. Roelker, reprinted from the Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society for April, 1943.

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