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FRONT COVER

Reproduced on the front cover is an oil portrait of Ambrose Everett Burnside, 1824-1881, painted by James S. Lincoln in 1852 when Burnside was a lieutenant at Fort Adams, Newport. The portrait was given to the Society by General Burnside's nieces, Mrs. Ellen Burnside Cameron and Miss Fanny Winsor Bishop, January 24, 1889.

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BURNSIDE: A RHODE ISLAND HERO

by KNIGHT EDWARDS

member of the Rhode Island bar

FRIDAY, September 16, 1881, was a day of public mourning in Providence. Offices and shops were closed in response to the Mayor's proclamation, flags flew at half-mast, buildings were draped with black bunting, and lining the curbstones were silent throngs of citizens with sober faces. We can imagine the scene that day through the eyes of a *Journal* reporter, standing in the quiet crowd at the corner of College and Benefit Streets in front of the Athenaeum. In the paper the next day, he wrote:

"The scene was an ever memorable one, as in the light of the mellow autumn day the long procession, composed of citizen-soldiers in bright uniform but with reversed arms and slow in step, the ageing veterans, wearing their badges of honor and their tokens of mourning for their leader and comrade, the representatives of the state and city governments, the guard of honor around the hearse, and the casket containing all that was mortal of the dead hero, moved slowly on 'to the deep wail of the trumpet and the beat of muffled drum,' amid the sound of the tolling bells and the firing of minute guns. It was a scene to be impressed vividly on the minds of all who saw it, and has become a part of the visible history of the state . . ."

As that funeral procession moved north on Benefit Street, later to turn east on Olney Street on its long, slow route to Swan Point, there must have been some in the crowd of spectators who remembered what the deceased hero had said nearly twenty years before in the gloomy winter of 1862-63. In answer to the impatient question of friends: "Why do you not claim what is your own?", his reply was:

"I can safely leave any claim that I have to the judgment of future years and the justice of my fellow countrymen."

This was not a wholly wise prediction. The passage of three-quarters of a century, and the judgment of latter-day historians have not dealt kindly with Ambrose Everett Burnside. Consider how shocked any one of the mourners that day at the First Congregational Church on Benefit Street would have been could they have heard this mid-twentieth century judgment by Fletcher Pratt:

"[Burnside] was a pioneer in the art of personal salesmanship, simply oozing elusive charm and sterling worth from every pore; the only general in history to have a barber's specialty named after him. No one who talked with him for five minutes ever doubted that Burnside was a very fine man, although people who talked with him for ten were known to express skepticism as to his intellect."¹

A kinder modern appraisal of him is expressed by T. Harry Williams. Williams says:

"People could not help liking Ambrose E. Burnside. His smile was charming, his manner was hearty, and his ways were winning. He cast a spell over most people when he met them. He was a handsome and striking figure of a man. About six feet in height, he was big in build. His large face was surrounded by heavy whiskers, which were almost the trademark of his appearance. In his dress, he was studiously careless and informal. He liked to wear an undress uniform and a fatigue cap. When he rode before the troops, he wore large buckskin gauntlets and a loose pistol belt that allowed his holster to swing at his hip. He seemed dashing and brave, and he was. He also seemed to be very intelligent, but he was not. One keen observer said: 'You have to know Burnside some time before you realize there is not much behind his showy front.' This was unjust. Burnside was an honest and a humble man. He was a good subordinate general. But he did not have the brains to command a large army . . ."²

This paper does not attempt an attack on, or corroboration of, these judgments, or a critical appraisal of the military feats and failures of Rhode Island's adopted son. My chronicle stems only from curiosity, curiosity about the life of a man prominent in public life

¹Fletcher Pratt, *Ordeal by Fire* (New York, William Sloane Associates, Inc., 1935, 1948)

²T. Harry Williams, *Lincoln and His Generals* (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1952)

in the community, and warmly regarded by his fellow townsmen, who has disappeared into obscurity in less than three-quarters of a century. True, there is a fine equestrian statue of him in the park south of the Providence Union Station, where in bronze effigy the General gazes off in the direction of Exchange Street, viewing the distant disposition of his troops. And many Providentians know there is a Burnside Square—just east of the Point Street Bridge—now in a state of disrepair and confusion from freeway construction. Further north, Burnside's former Benefit Street mansion bears a sign proclaiming the building's name as the Burnside Apartments. There is also a Burnside Street in Providence, running between Public Street and Thurbers Avenue. And, of course, like Fletcher Pratt, we are aware that full side whiskers—a style no longer in favor and unregretted—are called "sideburns" in a corruption of the General's name.

These several distinctions seem little enough, however, for one of the most prominent Rhode Islanders of his generation. But in being largely forgotten, perhaps Burnside is the gainer, not the loser. Although his achievements as a military commander, as a citizen, and as a politician, are not remembered, neither are the details of his crowning failure—the bloody Union defeat at Fredericksburg. With the perspective of 93 years, Fredericksburg today seems to this amateur historian one of a long series of early losses for Mr. Lincoln's Army, and Burnside merely one of the several inept Union generals who preceded Grant.

Ambrose E. Burnside (the middle initial "E" originally stood for "Everts," but became "Everett" on the West Point roster) was born May 23, 1824, in Union County, Indiana, near the town of Liberty. His father, Judge Edghill Burnside, had moved to Indiana from South Carolina some ten years before, and had married Pamela Brown, an emigrant from South Carolina like himself.

Ambrose was the fourth child born to these hardy pioneers; two sisters and a brother preceded him in the family circle; five other children were born later, but three of them died in infancy.

Young Burnside passed an apparently uneventful childhood and adolescence in the village of Liberty, studying in the Liberty school under a Dr. Houghton, who is described by Benjamin Perley Poore, Burnside's biographer, as a "Quaker preacher, who was a ripe

scholar."³ The school's curriculum included mathematics, rhetoric, logic, and moral philosophy.

Burnside's mother died in May, 1841, four days before his seventeenth birthday. Later in the same year, his father, without means to pay for Ambrose's further education, had him indentured as an apprentice to a tailor in Centreville, Indiana, fifteen miles from Liberty.

Burnside was a success as a beginner in the trade, and when his apprenticeship ended, he returned to Liberty, there to go into partnership with John M. Myers in the tailoring business. Besides serving as the Sunday School secretary in a local church, Burnside found time to read about the military heroes and exploits of the past. A legend in Liberty is the visit to Burnside's tailor shop in 1842 by Caleb Smith, Representative in Congress from the district. That gentleman found Burnside alone, reading a volume of Cooper's *Tactics* while he continued to stitch a coat. Representative Smith questioned the boy, and then remarked: "You should be a cadet at West Point." According to the legend, that statement changed the young tailor's destiny.

Burnside's father, a member of the Indiana legislature that year, started the political wheels rolling, and under date of March 8, 1843, Secretary of War Porter notified young Ambrose that President Tyler had conferred upon him a conditional appointment as a cadet in the service of the United States. A letter of acceptance, promptly forwarded with an endorsement of parental approval, started A. E. Burnside on his new career.

Fifty-three students from all parts of the country were in the class which enrolled at the Military Academy in July, 1843. The cadet rolls when Burnside enrolled, and while he was there, included many names which later became frequent headlines and familiar bywords in both North and South: McClellan, Hancock, Fitz John Porter, "Stonewall" Jackson, Pickett, A. P. Hill, and Heth, to name a few of them.

For four years, Burnside and Harry Heth were roommates in the old North Barracks; their friendship survived the war, and Burnside later helped Heth in business. Major General Heth served with dis-

³Ben: Perley Poore, *The Life and Public Services of Ambrose E. Burnside* (Providence, 1882)

tingtion in the Southern Army; it was his division which led the Confederate advance on Gettysburg in 1863, in search of shoes for poorly-shod troops. Freeman⁴ reports a legend that Harry Heth was the only general officer whom Lee addressed by his first name.

Burnside and Heth shared not only the rigors of the academy routine, but off-duty pleasures as well. Cadet Burnside was a frequent visitor at Benny Havens' tavern, and, on particularly convivial occasions, according to Poore, would sing a ballad titled "The Little Black Bull" with great effect. He also achieved a reputation as a cook at clandestine parties after taps in the barracks. In his fourth year, Burnside became one of four cadet captains, but was demoted to the ranks for being absent without leave about two months before graduation. Only thirty of the original fifty-three remained to be commissioned in July, 1847; at graduation, Burnside's relative standing was eighteenth in his class.

His commission as second lieutenant brought with it orders to join the Third Artillery in Mexico City, where operations under General Winfield Scott were coming to an end. Burnside joined a classmate in Baltimore, and the two shavetails started the long trek, across the mountains by stagecoach and thence by boat down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

On board a side-wheeler riverboat, out of Cincinnati and bound for Louisville, Burnside reportedly fell into a trap which any modern sophisticate should have avoided easily. A fellow passenger proposed a friendly game of euchre to Burnside, and invited another passenger to join in. Presently, small stakes were suggested and the young lieutenant cheerfully agreed when these stakes were increased, because he had been winning. You can guess the outcome; Burnside lost every cent, and had to face his classmate in the morning, knowing that to that point in their journey his classmate had been paying their joint traveling expenses, and that *his* resources were therefore practically gone. While the two were considering this glum prospect, a fellow traveler approached them. He had seen the game the evening before, and knew the other players to be river sharpers. Moved to generosity by the boys' sad plight, he advanced them funds for the remainder of their journey. Years later, in the North Carolina campaign, Burnside promoted his benefactor's son to a lieu-

⁴Douglas Southall Freeman, *Lee's Lieutenants* (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1942-1944)

tenancy from the ranks; Poore is mute on whether the loan was otherwise repaid, but it presumably was.

With other classmates, Burnside disembarked from a transport at Vera Cruz, but was disappointed to learn that the war was virtually over. He was ordered at once to Mexico City, where he served until his battery of the Third Artillery was transferred back to the States late in 1848 with orders to Fort Adams, Rhode Island, his first contact with his adopted state.

Burnside's duty at Newport as Poore describes it does not sound arduous. Bragg's Battery of light artillery was a showy feature of the weekly "fort days" which the troops put on to entertain the citizens of Newport. These drills, and infrequent parades in the town itself, on Bellevue Avenue, gave the battery opportunity to show civilians the glitter of military life. The unit was composed of picked men, and they enjoyed special uniforms and new equipment; the officers were all, like Burnside, expert horsemen, mounted on the finest horses. But there was plenty of off-duty time for a personable and dashing young lieutenant to go to parties and to become known both in Newport, which was then becoming a fashionable center, and in Providence. Dances, boating trips with the Newport belles, strolls along the ocean front and like excursions considerably alleviated the rigors of garrison duty.

Within a year, this happy interlude ended, when, in December, 1849, the battery was ordered to New Mexico. Light artillery and fancy drill units were not practical in Indian country, so a detachment, with Burnside in command, was equipped and mounted as cavalry. Their chores included scouting parties and escort duties, and one grim expedition to find the remains of a party of mail carriers slaughtered by the Indians.

In August, 1850, a party of about sixty Apaches came to Las Vegas in an attempt to trade furs for gunpowder and shot. The Captain in command recognized some of the group, and, not trusting their intentions, denied their request. After the Indians had left, the Captain ordered Burnside and a detachment of twenty-nine men to overtake the band and arrest the chiefs. Burnside did so, and a bloody encounter resulted—Burnside's first action. After a nine-mile chase, with swinging cavalry sabres flashing in hand-to-hand fighting, Burnside's party had captured three of the Apaches and killed

at least twenty. Several of the Federals, including Burnside himself, suffered wounds from Apache arrows.

From Las Vegas, Burnside was ordered to garrison duty in St. Louis. There he had his first run-in with the press. A local paper made some sneering remark about a "military snob" after Burnside had "protected" some girls at a dance. Burnside sought out the writer of the articles, and thoroughly thrashed him. The young lieutenant then successfully evaded the constables, and charges of assault and battery were dropped when some leading St. Louis citizens intervened in his behalf.

Burnside's next duty, as quartermaster with the Joint Boundary Commission in Texas, came the following year. He served in Texas with Colonel Graham, an Army engineer, the Commission's leading astronomer. Differences—it must have been a hot argument—arose between Graham and the chief surveyor, Mr. Gray. Gray sent a civilian assistant posting for Washington instructions. The next morning, Graham, not to be outdone, directed Burnside to carry his side of the dispute to Washington. Burnside had three men accompanying him, one of them the colored servant, Robert Holloway, who was with him the rest of his life. Dodging Apache bands, and eating buffalo meat from animals they killed themselves, this group made it to Fort Leavenworth on their last ounce of energy. The fort's surgeon put them all to bed, and ordered that they be awakened every half-hour, walked about for five minutes, and then fed beef-tea. Even with this brief interruption for rest and replenishment, Burnside reached Washington thirty-one days after leaving Texas, nearly a month ahead of the rival messenger and his escort. The fact that Burnside's man, Colonel Graham, was later relieved from duty with the Boundary Commission detracts nothing from the achievement of Burnside's ride, whatever it may evidence of his skill in advocacy.

After his return from Texas, Burnside received permission from the Secretary of War to stay in Washington to work on models of a breech-loading firearm which he had designed. While this work was progressing, Burnside received his promotion to first lieutenant and a furlough home to Indiana.

In the neighboring town of Hamilton, Ohio, our protagonist, who was then nearly 28, lost his heart to a bewitching Kentucky belle.

His proposal was accepted, and a marriage license obtained. At the church ceremony on the appointed day, however, the young lady answered the crucial question with a ringing "NO!", and no one could persuade her to change her mind. We can only imagine the consternation of the disappointed bridegroom; Poore adds that "the amazement of youth in its first defeat in love deadened the smart of the rebuff," whatever that may mean! There is a footnote to this sad tale: Some years later, the same young lady accepted the proposal of an Ohio lawyer. That gentleman took steps to guard against her vacillation by showing her his revolver on their way to be married, and by telling her she would return his bride or a corpse. She reportedly made the lawyer a devoted wife.

In March, 1852, Burnside was sent on special orders to rejoin his company which meanwhile had returned to Fort Adams. 1852 was an important year in Burnside's life. On his return to Newport, he cemented many friendships in Rhode Island, both new and renewed, particularly with the leaders of several volunteer militia associations. Among these men was William Sprague, later to be the "Boy Governor" of the war period.

At a ball given by Sprague's Marine Artillery Corps in Providence, Burnside had met Mary Richmond Bishop, who became Mrs. Burnside on April 27, 1852. The newly-weds' first quarters were at Fort Adams. His friends must have noticed a change in his demeanor, for Poore reports she exerted a salutary influence in toning down his exuberance and in reforming his camp habits.

During the spring and summer of 1852, Burnside continued his active interest in an improved rifle for the Army. His preoccupation with this work—and very possibly his wife's wishes, although that is only speculation—brought Burnside to resign his commission on November 1, 1852. He settled in Bristol, and there, with capital provided by friends, he established the Bristol Rifle Works for the manufacture of his breech-loader. The factory was well equipped, and was approved by a board of officers who inspected it for the Army. Burnside managed to keep up his interest in other military matters, and to maintain his contacts with his volunteer militia friends. In 1856, he was a member of the Board of Visitors which made the annual inspection of West Point. He also served for a year (1855-56) as major general in command of all the militia units in

the State. His resignation followed a dispute over the convening of a court martial to try the commander of a Providence corps for refusal to obey orders regarding an assigned place in a Fourth of July parade.

In 1857, Burnside was nominated as the Democratic candidate for Congress from the Eastern District of Rhode Island. Burnside's business prevented his carrying on a vigorous campaign, and he submitted his case to the people in a letter, without stumping the district. When the vote was counted, Burnside had been roundly defeated by his opponent, Nathaniel B. Durfee.

The particular matters which kept Burnside from active politicking were the long-awaited official trials of proposed breech-loaders. The future of Burnside's venture depended on the outcome of these trials, and at the outset, things looked propitious for his Bristol factory. A board of officers at West Point who tested several breech-loading rifles submitted by their inventors reported Burnside's model to be best suited for military service. Burnside's hopes were high; he knew the War Department had an unexpended appropriation of \$90,000, and he felt sure there was a profitable contract in the offing. To his surprise, the Secretary of War ordered only three hundred carbines from Bristol. After considerable delay, another board was appointed to examine the various models; again, Burnside's rifle was endorsed by the new board as most suitable, although none of the seven tested was free from defects. But a trip to Washington brought sad disillusionment. Burnside indignantly refused when a man told him \$5000 down would secure the contract for the Bristol company, and the deal fell through.

Without the contract, the Bristol Rifle Works was insolvent. Refusing the aid of friends, Burnside went to New York, after assigning to the company's creditors all his property, including the patent for his invention. In New York, he sold his dress uniform, his epaulettes, and his sword for thirty dollars, and sent the money back to Mrs. Burnside in Rhode Island. Practically penniless, he started west to look for a job.

He soon found work, through his West Point friend, George B. McClellan, then vice-president of the Illinois Central Railroad. Burnside became cashier in the railroad's land office in April, 1858. In Chicago, he and his wife, who had followed him west, occupied

a house with the McClellans. The Burnside family lived frugally, and Burnside applied the savings he made to paying off his Rhode Island debts, which were ultimately paid in full. In 1860, Burnside was promoted to the post of treasurer of the railroad, and he moved from Chicago to New York.

Burnside had lived in New York a short ten months when, in April, 1861, Fort Sumter was attacked. By proclamation, Mr. Lincoln called for 75,000 three-month volunteers. The very day of the President's proclamation, April 15, Burnside's friend, William Sprague, the thirty-year-old Governor of Rhode Island, telegraphed him: "A regiment of Rhode Island troops will go to Washington this week. How soon can you come on and take command?" Burnside as an old soldier (he was then nearly thirty-seven) had made preparations to leave if he were called. He sent a two-word answer to the Governor's dispatch, saying: "At once!", turned his books over to his assistant, and took the night train for Providence. The following day he was commissioned as Colonel of the First Regiment of Rhode Island Detached Militia, and assumed command.

The First Rhode Island Regiment was swiftly and enthusiastically organized under his leadership. More men volunteered than could be accepted; on April 18, a light artillery battery of six pieces, fully equipped, left Providence; on April 20, the first detachment of the regiment, five hundred strong, with forty-four officers, and with Governor Sprague and his staff, left for Washington; on April 24, the second detachment, equally strong, with Lieutenant Colonel Pitman in charge, followed. The regiment arrived in Washington on April 26, the first volunteer troops, fully equipped and provisioned, to reach the capital. This last claim does not ignore the prior arrival of two New York and two Massachusetts regiments; these others must have left uniforms or food behind, however, for both Poore and the regiment's chaplain⁵ make this claim to priority.

For two weeks, the First Rhode Island camped in temporary quarters in the Patent Office, sharing space with the glass display cases of patent models. The Regiment then built a camp outside the city, where their sunset parade became one of the sights of Washington. Burnside's training with Bragg's Battery had taught him much about the proper conduct of military ceremony, and for a time he and his

⁵Augustus Woodbury, *Major Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside and the Ninth Army Corps* (Providence, 1867)

command performed for legislators, Cabinet members, Washington belles and occasionally Lincoln himself.

A few days before the Regiment's three-month enlistment expired, things began to happen. Political pressure, and clamorings in the press of "On to Richmond!", finally compelled some action against Confederate troops occupying the area around Manassas, some twenty miles outside of Washington on the road to Richmond. Many other regiments then in Washington, like the Rhode Islanders, would be going home at the end of July; General Scott, the senescent hero of Mexico, had a deadline to meet. Accordingly, on July 16, a large force, designated the "Grand Army of the Union," and commanded in the field by General McDowell, marched out across the long bridge over the Potomac River and into Virginia.

Colonel Burnside was at the head of the Second Brigade, which included two Rhode Island infantry regiments—the First and Second—a Rhode Island artillery battery, and two more infantry regiments, the 71st New York and the 2nd New Hampshire. Like other leaders of the hastily improvised units in McDowell's army, Burnside had had no opportunity to maneuver his brigade together.

The advance was bravely begun, and was widely heralded in the North; when Burnside's brigade occupied Fairfax Court House without a fight, many optimists predicted the army would take Richmond within the week. This dream ended five days later on July 21 in the rout of the Federal troops at the first Battle of Bull Run. Successes early in the day's engagement—successes in which the Rhode Island regiments, and Burnside's brigade, fought bravely—gave the newspapers cause for rejoicing; the retreat that followed was the more shocking for being unexpected. More men lost their lives in this battle (Union: 481; Confederate: 387) than in any previous battle in the Western Hemisphere, and although the casualty figures seem small compared to later losses, they stunned the country. Among the casualties were Colonel Slocum of the 2nd Rhode Island, who fell mortally wounded early in the day, and Burnside's superior, General Hunter, who when wounded passed the command of his division to Burnside.

The army fell back to Washington, fearing the Confederates would follow up their victory. An all-night march—some of the men were on their feet for thirty-six hours together—and Burnside's brigade

was back in its Washington camps on July 22. Burnside offered the services of his regiment to the President for as long as Washington was in danger. It was soon clear, however, that the Confederates were not going to attack Washington, and all the three-month regiments were ordered home.

The First Rhode Island left Washington on July 25, and arrived in Providence on Sunday morning, July 28, just a week after the battle. Addresses of welcome and congratulation were tendered, the General Assembly voted its thanks, and (in September) Brown University conferred an honorary Master of Arts degree on Colonel Burnside. For many men in the First Rhode Island, the mustering-out ceremony, on August 2, was not an end to their military service. No less than two hundred and twenty privates in the regiment later served as commissioned officers of all grades; twelve others were commissioned in the Navy. Five officers who later served on Burnside's staff were First Rhode Island privates—Lewis Richmond, R. H. I. Goddard, Duncan Pell, W. H. French, and J. M. Cutts.

Burnside was commissioned as a brigadier-general of United States Volunteers under date of August 6, 1861, by President Lincoln. He served briefly in Washington, as commander of a provisional brigade, training the new three-year volunteer regiments as they reported. He was then ordered to organize an expedition to occupy certain areas on the coast of North Carolina. He set up headquarters in New York, and started the detailed work of chartering ships, and purchasing equipment and provisions. In January, 1862, some twelve thousand troops went aboard a motley collection of forty-six transports.

This improvised fleet of former ferryboats, canal boats, and side-wheelers, with a shoal-draft naval escort flotilla of twenty small vessels, successfully navigated Chesapeake Bay from Annapolis to Fortress Monroe, and sortied from Hampton Roads on January 12, in fine weather. Burnside was aboard the gunboat *Picket*, commanded by Thomas P. Ives of Providence. The very next day a howling winter gale struck the flotilla, and was followed by a series of storms and accompanying high seas which lasted for nearly two weeks. It was not until January 25 that all the ships were inside Hatteras Inlet in the more sheltered waters of Pamlico Sound. Five ships had been

grounded and lost, and several men drowned, but the expedition of some sixty-five vessels miraculously survived, virtually intact.

Burnside's expeditionary force landed on Roanoke Island, North Carolina, on February 5. Five forts on the island were captured and twenty-five hundred prisoners taken. These men were later exchanged; among the Union prisoners released was Burnside's faithful Robert who had fallen into enemy hands at Bull Run. The Battle of Roanoke was followed by the occupation of other North Carolina towns, Edenton, Plymouth, and Elizabeth City. There was rejoicing in the North; Rhode Island's General Assembly voted that a sword be presented to General Burnside in the name of the state, and Mr. Lincoln signed Burnside's promotion to Major General, which was confirmed by the Senate on March 16, 1862.

In March, Burnside's command stormed the fortified city of New Bern on the mainland; in April, Fort Macon surrendered after a heavy pounding from Union guns. Further advances were curtailed, and Burnside's hope of capturing the city of Wilmington was thwarted, because his old friend, McClellan, on the Peninsula before Richmond, thought Burnside's troops might be needed as reinforcements there.

In early August, after weeks of relative inaction, Burnside and two divisions embarked for Virginia. On board ship, Burnside received word that McClellan had occupied Richmond, and he therefore returned with his troops to New Bern. Too late came the true account of McClellan's disastrous Seven Days, and word of the precarious position of McClellan's army at Harrison's Landing on the James River. Burnside immediately proceeded to Fortress Monroe, where he conferred with Lincoln for the second time that summer. In June, Burnside had visited Washington and conferred there with Lincoln, and had also made a rapid trip to the peninsula to see McClellan. That was prior to the Seven Days; this time, in August, Stanton and Lincoln offered Burnside the command of the Army of the Potomac. He peremptorily declined, but the offer would later be renewed under circumstances which would make it impossible for him to refuse.

Burnside's troops were transferred to Fredericksburg, Virginia, and were reorganized, with an added division, as the Ninth Army Corps. The Corps became part of General Pope's "Army of Vir-

ginia," which included all Federal troops then in Virginia north of McClellan.

Meanwhile, McClellan's army, slowly and painfully returning from the banks of the James below Richmond, was still the "Army of the Potomac." This confusion of names is a minor detail compared to the serious confusion then existing in the chain of command. General Halleck, known as "Old Brains," the "General-in-Chief" with headquarters in Washington, had become less and less a chief of staff and more and more a mere technical adviser to the President. He was unable to straighten out conflicts and jealousies between McClellan, who wanted supreme authority for himself, and Pope, who was in serious need of reinforcements. Lincoln himself said Halleck had become little more than a first-rate clerk. While the Ninth Corps was fighting under Pope's command, Burnside remained in the Fredericksburg area, doing part of Halleck's job, expediting sorely-needed reinforcements of some forty regiments, plus artillery and cavalry.

On August 30, however, Pope's army was defeated by Lee at the Second Battle of Bull Run. No widespread rout followed, when Pope's army retired, but there was fear again for the safety of Washington. A clamor arose for the President to restore McClellan to command of all the troops. Lincoln already knew enough of McClellan's penchant for inaction, his touchy personality, his timidity, and his infection with what Lincoln called "the slows," to be unwilling to name him. Once again, Burnside was invited to take command—the only general then available with independent command experience and with a record of victory. Once again, Burnside declined; he had grave doubts of his own capabilities to lead a large force in the field, and much preferred to see McClellan have the job. Lincoln had no alternative; McClellan it was, his job saved once more by the reluctance of his old comrade.

And McClellan it was who led the army against Lee in an attempt to stop the Confederate invasion of western Maryland in the fall of 1862. An engagement at South Mountain, and a cataclysmic battle on September 17, 1862, near Sharpsburg—the Battle of Antietam—were Union victories, but the campaign was another McClellan failure. Although Lee had been driven out of Maryland, McClellan,

again afflicted with "the slows," failed to follow up his opportunity to destroy Lee's army.

Burnside's troops bore the brunt of the fighting at South Mountain. And on the battlefield near Sharpsburg there is a stone bridge across Antietam Creek referred to as the Burnside Bridge in some of the history books because of the hard fighting done there that September day by Burnside's wing of the army.

McClellan's continued inaction wasted several of the few remaining weeks of good fall campaigning weather. As the army moved slowly south in late October, Lincoln came at last to the inevitable decision: McClellan must go. The order was dated November 5, 1862. This time, the President took precautions against General Burnside's refusal. Brigadier General Buckingham—a man of considerable rank to be a courier—left Washington with the orders, and went to Burnside's headquarters. He arrived late on the evening of November 7, in a blinding snowstorm, and immediately had a private conference with Burnside. As soon as he was told, Burnside declined, but in accordance with his instructions, Buckingham pressed him, saying that McClellan was to be relieved in any event, and that if Burnside did not accept, the command would go to General Hooker. After consulting with his staff, and (we may suppose) his own conscience, Burnside agreed reluctantly, and the two officers set out at once for McClellan's headquarters twenty miles away. At the end of their journey they found "Little Mac," who took the news calmly, saying that of course Burnside, as a soldier, must obey, and that he, as a soldier, must likewise obey. Buckingham's mission was complete, and Lincoln's orders accomplished; Burnside assumed command on November 8, and McClellan was through, never again to have an assignment to duty.

It was a tremendous responsibility to take full charge of the Army of the Potomac, with some two hundred and fifty thousand men, an army which the President, the government and indeed everybody in the North expected to accomplish great things. Burnside's own fears of his capabilities, expressed in letters to close friends as well as in his repeated reluctance to take command, were not noticeable, however. He and his staff promptly prepared and submitted a plan of operation, which was a complete change from the plan in progress when he took over. In substance, he proposed to flank Lee by march-

ing the army rapidly to Falmouth (on the North bank of the Rappahannock River opposite Fredericksburg), to cross the river on pontoon bridges and then proceed to Richmond. Halleck telegraphed on November 14, 1862: "The President has just assented to your plan; he thinks that it will succeed if you move rapidly; otherwise not." Prophetic words, and Burnside proceeded to act upon them. In two days and a half, starting the very next morning, the army marched forty miles to the banks of the Rappahannock. Lee had been flanked, and out-generaled.

And then the horseshoe nail was lost; except in this instance it was the 50th New York Engineers with the pontoons needed to make the all-important bridges across the river. A series of blunders, misunderstood orders, and the fog of war delayed their arrival opposite Fredericksburg until November 24-25, seven precious days during which the main body of Lee's army had time to occupy the heights of Fredericksburg, with the remainder marching hard to catch up. Burnside did not dare put any of his troops across the river without the bridges for fear they would be trapped by rising waters at the fords. The whole strategic situation thus shifted against Burnside and the Army of the Potomac with the late arrival of the pontoon train.

Burnside considered briefly a move further south on the river, with the main thrust crossing at a point fourteen miles below Fredericksburg, but the plan was rejected. Instead, the bold and disastrous decision was made to cross at Fredericksburg, right into the center of Lee's army, the place where Burnside hoped Lee would least expect the main attack. Diversionary attacks were to be made north and south of the main crossing, but Lee was not deceived. On December 9, the pontoon bridges were started under heavy fire from Confederate sharpshooters; again and again, the engineers were driven from their work. Union artillery shelled the town of Fredericksburg itself attempting to protect the engineers; ultimately three regiments of infantry had to be ferried over in boats to drive off the rebels and secure the town. On the 11th, the bridges were ready and the main body of the army crossed over to the south side of the river. Lee's forces already occupied the heights back of the town; inexplicably, Burnside gave him an extra day to dig in, and bring up reinforcements. The assault came at last on the 13th; and

the main strength of Lee's army was there waiting, at least 60,000 infantrymen, on a six-mile front, six men to the yard. The most difficult and costly fighting took place at the foot of Marye's Heights, where Longstreet's corps waited, four ranks deep, in a sunken road behind a four-foot stone wall. Bruce Catton says their position was "as invulnerable a trench as the rebels could have found in the whole state of Virginia."⁶ And on the plain in front of this wall, after the blue-coated lines of infantry had charged again and again and still again, the assault utterly failed, and more than 900 dead, from no less than nine brigades, were so many that the armies declared a truce forty-eight hours later to bury them.

Burnside was dissuaded by his subordinates from renewing the assault, and the army withdrew to the north bank of the river on the night of December 15. The Seventh Rhode Island Infantry, Colonel Zenas R. Bliss commanding, was among the army's rear guard, last to leave the south bank of the Rappahannock. The dark and ruined city of Fredericksburg was a rough spot to be that night of defeat, and the bravery of Colonel Bliss was outstanding. He later was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Burnside, in his report to "Old Brains" Halleck in Washington, manfully shouldered the responsibility which was his:

"For the failure in the attack, I am responsible, as the extreme gallantry, courage, and endurance shown by (the army) was never exceeded, and would have carried the points had it been possible . . ."

Disastrous as the defeat had been, it did not destroy the army, but it did effectively break down the relationships between Burnside and his subordinates. Two brigadiers went to Washington just before New Year's and were taken to see the President by their Congressman. In effect, they said that the army had no confidence in Burnside. Lincoln summoned Burnside to the White House ostensibly to talk over Burnside's plan for a further drive across the river, a plan with which none of Burnside's generals agreed. Shortly thereafter, Burnside tendered his resignation. Instead of an acceptance, however, a reply came from Halleck approving another Burnside operation plan, with a note from Lincoln saying he could see no profit in changing the command at that time.

⁶Bruce Catton, *Glory Road* (New York, 1952) [Copyright 1952 by Bruce Catton, reprinted by permission of Doubleday & Company, Inc.]

The army marched on January 20, 1863, out of camp at Falmouth into a torrential rainstorm. The rain fell unceasingly, and the so-called "Mud March" was abandoned, to the jeers of the rebel pickets across the river. Burnside then offered to advance without the artillery, but his generals were almost unanimously opposed. And then nearly a month and a half of overwhelming responsibility and weeks of frustration in dealing with fractious subordinates exploded with Burnside's draft of "General Order No. 8," which by its terms cashiered Hooker and three other generals, subject to the President's approval, and relieved five other officers from their commands. Only the President, and not a Commanding General, had the power to dismiss officers from the service without a hearing, but after a conference Lincoln chose to solve the crisis in another way. On January 25, 1863, General Burnside was relieved of command "at his own request," and the Army of the Potomac entrusted to the self-confident and ambitious hands of Fighting Joe Hooker, the same Hooker whom Burnside had wanted dismissed from the service.

There is an unconfirmed Rhode Island family legend which should be repeated here. Colonel Bliss of the Seventh Rhode Island was walking through the army's camp at Falmouth one wet January afternoon when he heard the unmistakable sound of singing coming from headquarters. He detoured to investigate, and found General Burnside standing out in front of headquarters with a champagne bottle in each hand. Sighting Bliss, whom he knew, Burnside hailed him: "Come on in and have a drink, Bliss! I've just been relieved!"

Right after Hooker took command, Burnside tendered the resignation of his commission to the President, but Lincoln refused it, saying to him he had "other fish for him to fry." The "other fish" turned out to be the command of the Department of the Ohio, although Burnside hoped to have the Ninth Corps again. The Department of the Ohio included Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and the eastern part of Kentucky, plus parts of western Virginia and Pennsylvania. Burnside ran the military affairs in this vast area from March, 1863, until the following December.

During this time, a prominent anti-war Democrat and "Copperhead," Clement Vallandigham, was arrested on Burnside's orders and tried before a military commission for treasonable utterances in a campaign speech. Vallandigham was convicted by the commission

and sentenced to imprisonment for the duration of the war. A petition for a writ of habeas corpus was denied by a United States Circuit Court judge, but then Lincoln intervened to commute the sentence to banishment into the Confederacy. The case became something of a cause célèbre, and anti-administration newspapers took up the cudgels in defense of freedom of speech. Nothing if not courageous and consistent, Burnside ordered one of them, the *Chicago Times*, shut down, and sent a detachment of cavalry and two companies of infantry to enforce the order. Another paper, the *New York World*, was beyond his reach, so Burnside in the same order prohibited its circulation in his department. Although Lincoln had backed him on Vallandigham, he could not do it again. The order against the newspapers was revoked by the President, and Burnside was cautioned not to arrest civilians or close up newspapers in the future without first consulting Washington.

In August, Burnside led some eighteen thousand troops over the Cumberland Mountains into East Tennessee to occupy Knoxville. The force marched 250 miles in fourteen days, a major achievement over mountainous terrain. Before Burnside was relieved in December, his command was besieged in improvised fortifications at Knoxville for over a month.

On his return from East Tennessee, Burnside had several weeks rest in Providence before he turned his attention to recruiting duties—recruiting for his old command, the Ninth Corps. Visits to cities in the northeast occupied the opening weeks of 1864. In April at Annapolis, Burnside took over command of the Ninth Corps, which included one division (out of four) entirely of colored troops. The campaign that followed that spring and summer—the last great campaign of the Army of the Potomac, led by the head of all the armies, Lieutenant General Grant—must have brought many thoughts of what might have been to Burnside, now a subordinate in the army he once commanded. But these thoughts do not appear on the record, and engagement followed engagement in bloody succession as the war ground closer to its inevitable conclusion. The Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, and finally Petersburg marked the hard road to victory which Burnside's corps traveled with Grant's army.

It was an officer in Burnside's corps, Lieutenant Colonel Pleasants

of the 48th Pennsylvania, who devised the famous Petersburg mine, a scheme which he hoped would break the Confederate line of trenches and fortifications. Pleasants proposed to dig a tunnel from behind the Union line under no-man's land and then to plant fused explosives under the rebel trenches. With Burnside's backing, the scheme was approved. Burnside picked his colored division to make the assault that was to follow the explosion of the mine. A month's hard work by the regiment of Pennsylvania coal miners ended in late July, 1864. Practically at the last minute, General Meade ordered a change and directed that the main assault after the explosion be led by white troops, a decision which Grant approved on Meade's recommendation. On July 30, the fuse was lit, and burned down the five hundred and ten feet of the tunnel to the magazines of explosives under the rebel trenches. The explosion, at 4:45 in the morning, blew a huge crater two hundred feet long, fifty feet wide, and twenty-five feet deep in the Confederate lines. In the assault that followed, Burnside's troops filled this crater and some of them carried to the crest beyond, but after several hours of hard fighting and severe losses, the attack was repulsed with heavy casualties. Burnside's men were forced to retire to their own lines.

Meade malevolently prepared court-martial charges against Burnside, but Grant disapproved them. A Court of Inquiry was ordered, and a wave of popular criticism of Burnside followed. He was relieved from his command on August 13, 1864, and returned to Providence.

The court of inquiry, picked by Meade, censured Burnside and four other officers for the failure of the attack. Subsequently, Burnside partisans took comfort from the conclusion of the Congressional Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War which held its own investigation. The cause of the defeat was, they said, the change in plan by Meade, and the failure to use the specially-trained colored troops in accordance with Burnside's plan.

Petersburg was Burnside's last engagement; the war ended at Appomattox in April, 1865, before he was given another command. He resigned his commission within a week after the surrender, thus putting a final period to his military career.

In civil life thereafter, Burnside took a prominent part. He was President of the Providence Locomotive Works, and of two mid-

western railroads, and he financed his Academy roommate, Confederate Harry Heth, in the unsuccessful operation of some coal mines in Virginia. In addition, Burnside served three terms as a Republican governor of Rhode Island, from 1866 to 1869. He declined the nomination for a fourth term.

In 1870, Burnside was in London in connection with the sale of certain railroad bonds, when the Franco-Prussian war broke out. Burnside and an associate detoured to France, had several meetings with Count Bismarck, and visited the besieged city of Paris under a flag of truce on several occasions.

In 1875, Burnside was elected United States Senator from Rhode Island. During his service in Washington, he was for a time chairman of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, and was also on the Military Affairs Committee. In 1876, he was a member of the high court of impeachment which tried Secretary of War Belknap. In 1877, he was appointed chairman of a special joint commission to consider reorganization and reform of the army.

Among the measures for Rhode Island's benefit which Burnside helped sponsor were appropriation bills, including monies for the improvement of the Providence River, for a harbor of refuge at Block Island, for lighthouses and fog signals in the Bay, and for increased postal facilities. Citizen Burnside served Rhode Island and his country well, if not conspicuously; in 1880, he was re-elected as Senator for a second term to begin in 1881.

When he was not in Washington, Senator Burnside lived in Rhode Island, either in his city residence at 312 Benefit Street, or at "Edghill Farm" near Bristol.

Burnside was active in social as well as political circles; according to the records, he was one of the incorporators of the Hope Club in 1876.

In 1881, after staying in Washington a few days following the adjournment of the Senate, Burnside went to his farm in Bristol. His relatively lonely life there (Mrs. Burnside had died five years before, in 1876, and they had had no children) was occupied with cattle-raising and other farming projects. From time to time, he visited Providence or Newport, and during that summer he took occasional trips on Mr. Herreshoff's steam yacht, and visited Saratoga Springs with his senior colleague, Senator Anthony.

On Monday, September 12, he visited Senator Anthony in Providence, and had a pleasant chat with him. It was his last talk with anyone except his servants and the doctor; the next morning, September 13, at Bristol, he suffered a heart attack and passed to his reward.

And so we come back to the point we started from at the beginning of this paper: the corner of College and Benefit Streets, watching a long funeral procession march slowly past, on a bright autumn afternoon in 1881. While we stand there watching, contemplating the frailty of man, we might well read an informal epitaph spoken by an unnamed friend, which tells more of Ambrose Burnside than any of the elaborate funeral and memorial orations which were composed by the ream on the occasion. This epitaph reads as follows:

"Externally, General Burnside was a showy and impressive man, with a great deal of 'deportment'; internally, he was something still better, a brave and knightly and gentle heart. But a few days preceding his sudden death I was at a suburban party among a little knot of Washington and Georgetown old families. A bright lady guest of one of these families, residing in Providence, was present, and she talked to me vivaciously about Rhode Island's senators, both of whom she knew very well at home. She said, merrily, that it was always a treat to meet General Burnside at a party; that he would come up in his superb, soldierly way and offer a cordial hand to her, saying: 'How do you do? How do you do, my dear madam? How do you do?' and without another word, go on to the next acquaintance similarly, leaving her with an impression of having had a very nice talk with him. 'I know there is nothing weighty behind that grand manner,' she added; 'I know he adds just nothing at all to the intellectual weight of the Senate; but what a treasure he is, after all. Rhode Island likes him, and always will.'"⁷

One should add that Rhode Island also has cause to be proud of Senator, General, and Citizen Burnside. Despite his failures—the Rifle Works, Fredericksburg, Petersburg—each of which was, in part at least, bad luck or circumstance—he was a capable officer and a good corps commander, even though he was neither an effective tactician nor a successful general-of-the-army. Courageous, humble, willing to put country and duty ahead of his own desires, Burnside's character stands out in marked and favorable contrast

⁷Poore, *op. cit. supra*.

to the Messianic complex of McClellan and the scheming ambition of Hooker.

Brilliant and scholarly he was not, but (in Lincoln's words) he was a "most meritorious and honorable officer." We have considerable reason, in my opinion, for remembering Ambrose Burnside as a Rhode Island hero.

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LIBRARY ACCESSIONS

DURING recent months the library has continued its steady growth and has been fortunate in acquiring many important manuscripts and early printed material.

From the estate of Paul C. Nicholson, long an actively interested member and officer, the Society has received a large collection of log books, account books, and other manuscript material. Outstanding among the items relating to Rhode Island are: the original manuscript of Captain Thomas Dring's *Recollections of the Jersey Prison Ship*; the log of the ship *John Brown*, 1822-1824; the log of the ship *Ann & Hope*, 1833; the log of the sloop *Rainger*, 1744; two account books of the ship *Superior*, 1825; and a letter book of the Providence Insurance Company, 1801-1806.

Two other log books, from the estate of Ratcliffe Hicks of Tolland, Connecticut, grandson of Captain Ratcliffe Hicks of Providence, have been presented by Miss Elizabeth Hicks. They are the log of the ship *Janson* from Providence towards Batavia and Canton in 1816, and the log of the ship *Edward*, 1830.

Mr. Hugh F. Rankin of Williamsburg, Virginia, has given the Society a letter from General Nathanael Greene to Jethro Sumner,

dated May 5, 1781. It describes the movements of the British troops under Cornwallis.

Many important additions have been made through purchase. These include: five account books of the famous privateer *Yankee* of Bristol, which give a nearly complete picture of her activities during the War of 1812; a journal kept by William H. Mason, supercargo on board the ship *Hope*, on a voyage from Providence to Sumatra and Canton, 1802-1803; the record book of the Louisquisset Turnpike Company, 1805-1870; and the record book of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace at Newport, 1746-1837. Letters purchased are: Stephen Hopkins to Governor Hardy of New York, March 6, 1756; Stephen Hopkins, Daniel Jenckes and Thomas Cranston to Thomas Richardson, June 10, 1755; a letter from Benjamin Bourne to his father, written at Cambridge in May, 1774, telling of the reaction to the Boston Port Act; two letters from Commodore Silas Talbot to Benjamin Bourne, January 7, 1798, and December 13, 1805; and a letter from Sir Peter Parker to Silas Talbot, July 28, 1800.

Among a group of Clarke family papers presented to the Society by Senator Charles J. Link of Charlestown was a previously unknown Rhode Island imprint, a broadside dated Newport, November 25, 1771. It is a prospectus with space for signatures of subscribers to Church's *Entertaining History of King Philip's War* published at Newport in the following year. The same papers included a copy of *A Sermon At the Funeral of Capt. Silas Hutchens of Killingly . . .* by John Fuller . . . printed at Newport in 1774. The only other known copy is badly mutilated.

Another previously unknown broadside, which the Society purchased, is *A particular Account of the Sudden Flight of the Large British Army and Navy from the Town and Harbour of Boston, early on Sunday Morning, March 17th, 1776*, printed at Newport by Solomon Southwick, March 26, 1776. Also from the Revolutionary period is *A Collection of Occurrences and Facts . . .* by Joseph Hewes, dated Providence, April 22, 1775, an item which was lacking from our collection.

A Call from Death to Life (London, 1660), recently purchased, is of Rhode Island interest, since it deals with the persecution of Mary Dyer and other Quakers at Boston.

NEWS-NOTES

OWING to the length of the main articles in the last three issues of *Rhode Island History* it was necessary to omit temporarily "Nathanael Greene's Letters to 'Friend Sammy' Ward." It is intended to resume publication of these letters in the April, 1957, issue.

* * *

The Harriet Beecher Stowe Foundation of Hartford, Connecticut, has acquired from The Rhode Island Historical Society an oil portrait of Mrs. Stowe. The Executive Board felt that since there was no connection between the author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and Rhode Island, this portrait by Alanson Fisher would be more suitably placed with other Stowe material in Hartford.

* * *

If members have back issues of the Society's publications which they do not wish to keep, we will be pleased to have them returned to the library. We occasionally have requests for copies of our quarterly that we are unable to fill.

It is the Society's function to preserve manuscripts: letters, diaries, account books, etc.; broadsides and books printed in and about Rhode Island; and almost anything of Rhode Island interest. Before you dispose of such material, get in touch with us.

* * *

It has been suggested that the Society give a series of lectures on the history of Rhode Island or a course of study in genealogical research. Anyone interested in such studies should write the librarian before February 1 stating his preference.

* * *

The Historic Sites Committee of the Heritage Foundation of Rhode Island has designated the staff of the Society to serve as a clearing house for information concerning the availability of old houses for rental, sale, or purchase.



21. SECRETARY BOOKCASE

Cherry

Connecticut or Rhode Island 1790-1800

A piece of this sort cannot be attributed with assurance to any specific maker or town unless a label or other documentary proof of origin is available. The closed bonnet and general appearance of the piece indicate Rhode Island, but the shaping of the finials and the bonnet, and the decoration around the base of the bonnet suggest Connecticut. The interior with the *waterfall* or *cascade* drawers is of a design found in both states. The same can be said about the feet. The use of cherry was more common in Connecticut, but it was also used in Rhode Island.

Ex-collection Julia D. and Franklin R. Cushman



22. HIGH CHEST OF DRAWERS

Maple and similar woods

Probably Rhode Island 1725-1750

Compared to the two high chests of drawers, no. 17 and no. 18, this is of provincial design. It is evident that the cabinetmaker was inept either through lack of experience or talent or through both. A critical analysis of its principal design features would show the following weaknesses: (1) the mouldings placed one on top of the other are alike and fail to complement each other to give the necessary contrast and variety; (2) the chest is too wide and the legs poorly shaped and so thin at the bottom that one wonders how they support the weight of the piece. The engraved brasses, which are of good design, are of the type used in the early eighteenth century.

Ex-collection Julia D. and Franklin R. Cushman



23. DRESSING TABLE

Walnut

Massachusetts 1750-1775

This dressing table is a companion piece to the high chest of drawers, no. 17. Usually the chest of drawers and the dressing table have become separated, and it is fortunate when both are together after such a long lapse of time. The set of brass pulls is particularly fine, well shaped, and large. The excellent state of preservation is emphasized by the drop ornaments that hang from the skirt. They are original and complete, including the moulded block to which they are attached. More often than not these parts have been lost and replaced at a later date. The overhang of the top and the moulding of its edge are in good proportion and design as are the legs and feet. Altogether, this can be considered a much better than average Massachusetts dressing table.

Ex-collection Henry A. Hoffman



24. WINDSOR CHAIRS

Maple, pine, and hickory

Rhode Island 18th century

Windsor chairs were made over a long period of time and were used for a variety of purposes. George Washington had them on the front piazza at Mount Vernon. They were used for meetings such as those held in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, and served in homes as a general utility chair. Sometimes they were left unpainted, but more often were painted dark green or black. Some were crude; others showed many refinements. In the examples illustrated the fine turnings of the legs and spindles of the back indicate the care and ability of this particular chairmaker. The abrupt change in the diameter of the lower section of the leg is a characteristic attributed to Rhode Island Windsors.

Ex-collection Julia D. and Franklin R. Cushman

THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEW MEMBERS

September 26, 1956 — December 7, 1956

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|---|--|
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Seekonk, Mass. |
| Mrs. Isabel C. Martin
Hope, R. I. | Miss Sofia W. Vervena |

LECTURES

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|--|-----------|
| January 9, 1957, Wednesday | 8:30 p.m. |
| The Gilded Age of Bristol, 1800-1825
GEORGE L. HOWE, Author and Architect | |
| February 17, 1957, Sunday | 3:30 p.m. |
| The Story of the <i>Woodhouse</i>
The Beginning of the Society of Friends in Rhode Island
PHILIP C. GIFFORD | |
| March 13, 1957, Wednesday | 8:15 p.m. |
| The Spragues and the Cranston Print Works Company
DWIGHT H. OWEN, Public Relations Manager,
Cranston Print Works Company | |