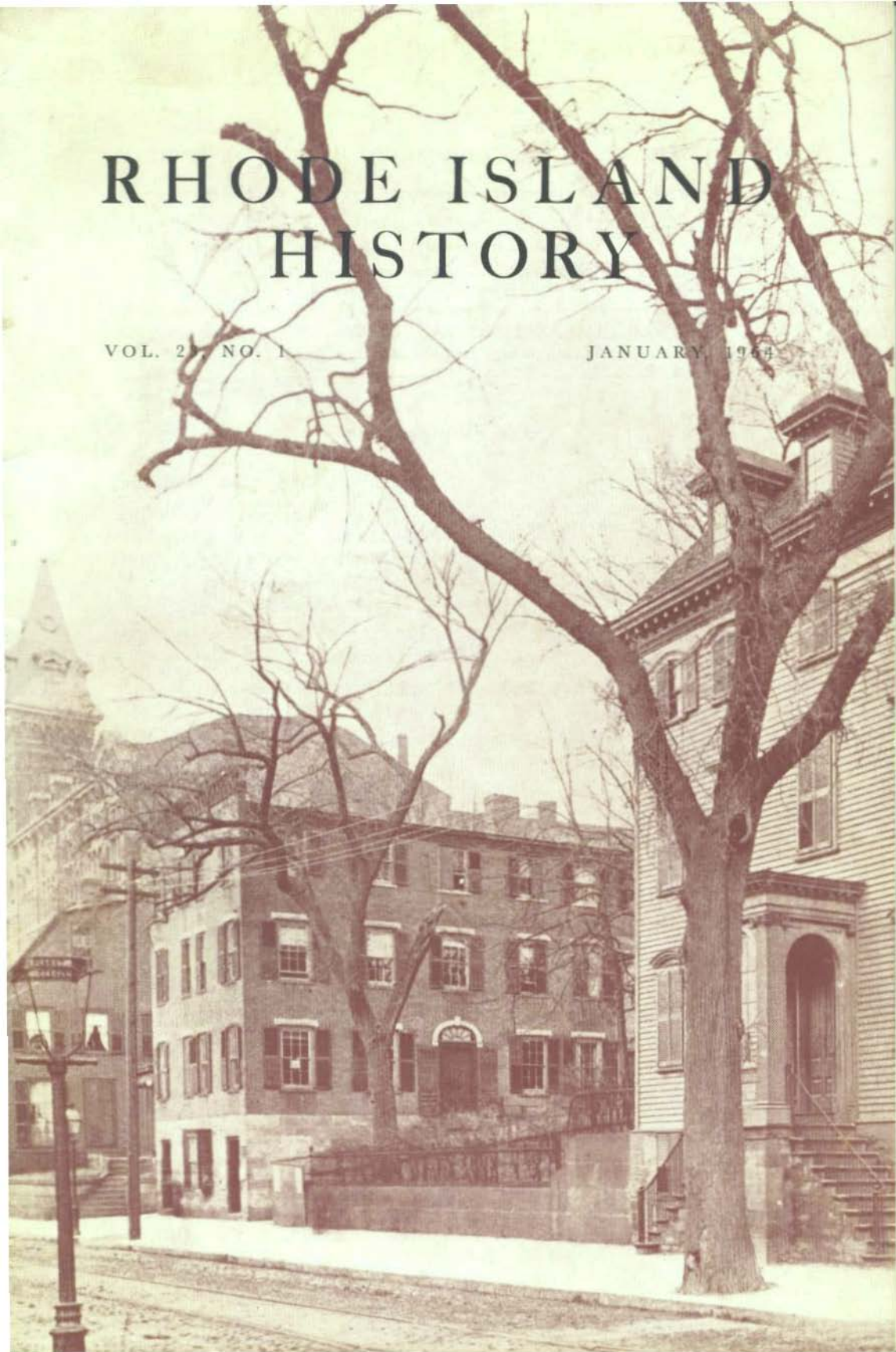


# RHODE ISLAND HISTORY

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### COVER

(Photograph in R.I.H.S.)

*View of South Main Street, Providence, looking north from the intersection of Planet Street, taken in 1891. The portion of the building at the right was the home of Welcome Arnold, formerly Sabin's Tavern, and now the site of the International Business Machines Corporation. Far to the left is Infantry Hall, burned in 1942, the present site of the Firemen's Mutual Insurance Company. (See p. 18 for further detail.)*

# RHODE ISLAND HISTORY

VOL. 23

JANUARY, 1964

NO. 1

## PROVIDENCE CABINETMAKERS

by ELEANORE BRADFORD MONAHAN

A GREAT DEAL HAS BEEN WRITTEN about the Townsend-Goddard school of Newport furniture, but little attention has been paid to the Providence cabinetmakers of this same period. The Newport group comprising some twenty members of the Townsend-Goddard dynasty of cabinetmakers worked for about a hundred years (ca. 1740-1840) and has been credited with the work of other furniture makers, not only workers in Newport but also craftsmen elsewhere in Rhode Island. We know now that it is not sufficient to attribute certain pieces of furniture to the Newport school solely on a basis of style and the kind of wood used. Moreover recent studies have revealed that there were competent cabinet workers in Providence, six of whom banded together on February 19, 1756, to make a price fixing agreement, which was revised on March 24, 1757.<sup>1</sup> (see pp. 2 and 3)

Although Providence in the 1750s was smaller and less wealthy than Newport, it was beginning to give evidence of its eventual trade leadership. In the Crawford Papers in The Rhode Island Historical Society's library are several bills from a signer of this trade agreement, Phillip Potter, to Captain Joseph Crawford, who was carrying on a profitable trade with the West Indies. On August 6, 1762, he lists tables and chairs amounting to £357. Again on May 14, 1763, desks of "mapel and walnut," tables of "mapel, mahogany and charattry" (cherry tree) to the amount of £575. On January 22, 1764, Potter had sold Crawford a lot of furniture including "mapel, walnot and mahogany Tables". . . Joiners' chairs, desks, etc. for £826. In this

<sup>1</sup>Ms. in The Rhode Island Historical Society.



bill was also listed a "Black Walnut Desk Cas'd (crated) to go by the sloop *Rhodes*," at £143. Again on July 1, 1767, Potter was billing Captain Crawford:<sup>2</sup>

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| To 3½ feet mahogany Table with claw feet | 67-6-11   |
| To 1 mahogany Tea Do                     | 34-0-0    |
| To cutting the claw feet                 | 16-0-0    |
|  | £117-6-11 |

—AGREEMENT OF FEBRUARY 19, 1756—

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Particular Price of Joinery Work          |     |
| Viz Loe Cas of Draws with Lackers handels | £22 |
| Ditto with Polished handel @              | 25  |
| plane Desks with Lackard handels          | 32  |
| Ditto with Polished handels               | 35  |
| Disk with 2 tear of Daws @                | 38  |
| High Case of Draws @                      | 50  |
| Tables @ £4:10 pr foot with Rule Joynts   |     |
| Ditto with old fashioned Joints @         | 4   |
| Common Tea table @                        | 7   |
| Square Kitchen table @                    | 8   |
| Beadsted with Long Posts @                | 9   |
| Palet beadsteds @                         | 14  |
| Trundel Beadsted @                        | 8   |
| Pine Chests with 2 Draws @                | 18  |
| Ditto with one Daw @                      | 12  |
| Maple with two Draws                      | 20  |
| Ditto with one Draw @                     | 14  |
| Common house Chest @                      | 8   |
| Maple Cradle @                            | 10  |
| White Pine Ditto @                        | 9   |
| Sea Chest @                               | 6   |
| 4 feet Ditto                              | 10  |
| Mehogeney Stand Table @                   | 22  |
| Black walnut Ditto @                      | 18  |
| Maple Ditto @                             | 15  |
| Candel Stand with mehogeney @             | 12  |
| Black walnut Ditto @                      | 10  |
| Maple Ditto @                             | 8   |
| Chamber table of mehogeney @              | 45  |
| Mehogeney hye Case of Draws @             | 90  |
| Mehogeney Desk with 2 tear of Draws @     | 80  |
| Black walnut hye Case of Draws            | 65  |

Black walnut Desk with 2 tear of Draws @ £55 Mehogeney Rule Joy  
tables @ £8 a foot  
Black walnut Ditto £6 Journey mens work for making a Plane Desk  
(@ £15 and for 2 tear of Draws @ £16 — 10  
February ye 19th 1756

Without doubt Potter's furniture compared favorably in quality and design with that made and exported from Newport, since Job Townsend, Jr., was charging Joseph Wanton about that time £65 for a "Mahogany Fly table."<sup>3</sup>

—REVISED AGREEMENT OF MARCH 24, 1757—

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Providence March ye 24th 1757 Made By us Subscribers the Price of      |  |
| Joiners work a Loe Case of Draws @ £33 Do with Polished @ £            | £36 . 0 . 0  |
| Plane Desk @ £44 with Polished handels @                               | 48 . 0 . 0   |
| Desk with two tear of Draws £55 a high Case of Draws @                 | 70 . 0 . 0   |
| Maple Rule Joynt tables @ 6£ pr foot old fashen Joynts                 | 05 . 10 . 0  |
| Common tea table @ 10£ Citchen table @ £12 Beadsted with<br>high Posts | 12 . 00 . 0  |
| Palet Beadsted @ £18 Do with Loe Posts @ £10                           |  |
| Trundel Beadsted @   | 11 . 0 . 0   |
| Pine Chests with two Draws @ £22 Do with one Draw @                    | 16 . 0 . 0   |
| Maple Chest with two Draws @ 26£ Do with one Draw @                    | 20 . 0 . 0   |
| House Chest @ 10£ Maple Cradel @ 12£ Do Pine @                         | 10 . 0 . 0   |
| Common Sea Chest @ 7£ Do 4 feet Long @ 8£                              | 08 . 00 . 0  |
| Mehogny Stand Table @ 30£ Do Black walnut @                            | 26 . 00 . 0  |
| Maple Do @ 20£ maple Candel Stand @ 10£                                | 10 . 00 . 0  |
| Do walnut 12 & mehogny @ 16£ mehgn high Case of Draws @                | 100 . 00 . 0   |
| Do with Croun and Claws @ 150£ Mehogny Chamber table @                 | 50 . 00 . 0  |
| Mehogny Desk with 2 Draws @ 90£ walnut Do with 2 tear<br>of Draws @    | 75 . 00 . 0  |
| Black walnut high Case of Draws @ 85£                                  |  |
| Mehogny Rule Joynt tables @ 11£ a foot                                 |  |
| Walnut Do @ [torn] £ a foot  |  |
| To Casen of a Desk @ £5  |  |
|  | Gershom Carpenter<br>Grindall Rawson<br>Benja. Hunt<br>John Power<br>Phillip Potter<br>Joseph Sweeting |
| a Desk with two teer of drawers & ye Protitions Brought [torn]         | £41 . 0  |
| A Bedstid with Cock Tennants   | £10  |
| A desk with two teer of Draws one Square draw                          | £39 . 0 . 0  |

Rule And Price of  
Joiners Work  
Phillip Potter His  
Book 1756

A Table of Joiners  
Work

<sup>3</sup>Ralph E. Carpenter, Jr., *Arts and Crafts of Newport, R.I.* (Newport, 1954), p. 15.

<sup>2</sup>Crawford Papers, R. I. Hist. Soc.



The mahogany high case of drawers (highboy) referred to in the agreement of 1757 for £100 must have been every whit as good as those produced by the Townsend-Goddards. For less money they made simple and less pretentious pieces for home trade and for export.

We do know that Phillip Potter was well enough established to hire a wood turner, one William Barker, to make such items as his chair rounds, stiles, bed posts, chair bottoms, handles, and chair legs.<sup>4</sup> As a master cabinetmaker Potter doubtless could spend his time to better advantage carving intricate details rather than turning legs for cheap bannister-backs or slat-back chairs.

At any rate the geographical situation of Providence at the head of Narragansett Bay, with roads leading to western Connecticut, to southern Massachusetts, and to Boston, would account for the town's control of a certain amount of custom from the hinterland even before the American Revolution. The war put an end to Newport's wealth and consequently restricted her buying power, while Providence gained in foreign export business as well as in coastwise traffic and in overland commerce. Moreover, the years just following the war saw the construction of small, medium, and large houses, a real postwar building boom in Providence. Some were even of superior quality: John Brown House (1786), the Joseph Nightingale House (1792), the Thomas Poynton Ives House (1806), and the Sullivan Dorr House (1809), to name a few. The question naturally arises as to how these notable buildings and more especially how hundreds of other moderately pretentious new homes were furnished.

The new style set by the classical revival made the Queen Anne curvilinear line, a favorite of Newport cabinetmakers, unpopular even as early as 1785. Styles set by Robert Adam's Syon House, based on his illuminating trip to the Roman ruins at Pompeii and Dalmatia, swept away the rococo forms of the American Chippendale and earlier Queen Anne styles in furniture. The classical Adam style was again emphasized in Hepplewhite's *Guide* (1788) and Sheraton's *Drawing Book* (1791-94) as well as in Charles H. Tatham's *Etchings of Ancient Ornamental Architecture* (1799). Antique art based on a trip to Sicily, Egypt, and the Near East was the source of furniture designs in Thomas Hope's *Household Furniture and Interior Decoration* (1807).

<sup>4</sup>Account Book of William Barker, Jan. 3, 1758, to Feb. 4, 1761. R. I. Hist. Soc.

A set of three chairs of the intermediate style, just between the Chippendale and the more classic Hepplewhite version, has recently been added to the Society's collections. The splats of these chairs are topped by a Greek kylix urn, originally illustrated in Hepplewhite's *Guide* and used in the so-called "Rhode Island Hepplewhite" shield-back chairs, which can be seen in the dining room of John Brown House. The lower portion of the central splat of the newly acquired chairs is, however, unusual in its use of three large graduated and vigorously carved bell flowers (*Illustration 1*). The channeled tapering of the front legs is in the best Rhode Island tradition. Clearly these chairs are not the work of an amateur or country joiner. Indeed the only deviation from the Newport tradition is the use of slightly lighter weight mahogany. By family tradition they are the work of Job Danforth, a Providence cabinetmaker and father of Walter Danforth, mayor of Providence, 1853. In the Job Danforth account book, which is also in the Society's library, we see that he was working for the more prominent Providencians: Arthur and James Fenner, William Goddard, John Mason, Benjamin Gladding, Samuel Nightingale, James Burrill, Amos Throop, Tristram Burgess and Philip Crapo.

On October 16, 1792, Job was listing a "high Post Bedsted" among other pieces of furniture for Jabez Bowen<sup>5</sup> who, we know, accustomed to the best in furnishings, employed John Goddard of Newport to make him a tea table and other pieces of furniture.<sup>6</sup>

On July 25, 1802, Elisha Dyer bought from Danforth a mahogany sideboard for £15 and on November 24, 1802, a "high post birch bedstead, fluted posts on" for £2-2-0. The prices in this account book are lower

<sup>5</sup>Account Book of Job Danforth, R. I. Hist. Soc.

<sup>6</sup>Carpenter, *op. cit.*, p. 14.

*Illustration 1.* Transitional Hepplewhite chair (probably made by Job Danforth) in John Brown House. Gift to The Rhode Island Historical Society by Col. and Mrs. J. Danforth Edwards.





than those in the 1756 fair price agreement. This does not necessarily indicate the lack of prestige of the cabinetmaker, but could as well result from the variable buying power of Rhode Island money.

By the turn of the century the Rawsons, Webb and Scott, John Burr, the Carliles, James Aborn, Luther Metcalf, Cyrus Cleaveland, and Thomas Howard, Jr., were evidently taking over a great deal of the Newport cabinetmaking business — all working in the new classical style. One is tempted to add Peter Grinnell's name to this list of cabinetmakers. As a ship chandler he advertised in the newspapers in addition to ships' supplies gilded architectural mirrors. There is a labeled example in the Los Angeles County Museum. These mirrors are identified by a very slender twisted rope column. It seems more reasonable, however, that Grinnell either employed a journeyman mirror maker or secured them from a local cabinetmaker. In 1824 Rhodes G. Allen advertised in the *Providence Directory*: "fine furniture for sale and has 8 journeymen, good workmen and only 1 apprentice who all work under his instruction."<sup>7</sup>

But this was the era of specialization. The Industrial Revolution made one noticeable change in cabinetmaking: the enterprising artisan quite often took on a wholesale line of associated items of upholstery and house furnishings and gained a rapid turnover by selling (along with his own finer line) a cheaper variety of fancy and Windsor chairs made by chair specialists. He was likely to accumulate a much more substantial estate than did the plodding eighteenth century individual craftsman who, in spite of his skill, often kept only one step ahead of the sheriff. Thomas Howard, Jr., is an example of one such enterprising furniture wholesaler and entrepreneur. A skilled workman, he began his career about 1790 and died in 1833, at the age of 59, with a considerable fortune, acquired mainly from a wholesale furniture and upholstery business, together with a large trade in ivory, popular at this time for decoration of fine furniture and sundry other uses.<sup>8</sup> The recent discovery of a handsome and fairly sophisti-

<sup>7</sup>*Providence Directory*, 1824.

<sup>8</sup>Will of Thomas Howard, Jr., 1833. #A5470 Probate Records, City Hall, Providence, R. I., records the estate of Thomas Howard, Jr., as totaling \$90,363.81. Thomas Howard's son, Ezra Williams Howard, inherited a sufficient estate to allow him a life of leisure, though he was educated in the law. He and his family summered in Newport, where his daughter, Marion C. Howard (born in Providence, March 19, 1859), married Harford Willing Hare Powel (born in Newport, Dec. 3, 1856). She founded the Aquidneck Industries in Newport, which produced fine hand embroidery and thereby preserved the art for some forty years.

cated labeled desk and bookcase, or secretary, (*Illustration 2*) focuses attention on the results of the earlier years of Thomas Howard, Jr.'s work. On the top of the lower member of this secretary is printed with pencil:

Thos. Howard's  
Cabinet Warehouse  
Near the Bridge  
Providence, R. I.

At first glance the tambour doors at the lower part of the upper member of this secretary, the arched, glazed upper doors and the wide variegated band inlay around the drawers would suggest a Boston origin, perchance Thomas Seymour. But the two doors opening on shelves between the glazed portions of the upper member are not at all in the Boston tradition, nor is the verticality of the piece, though this characteristic can be found in North Shore furniture. One is reminded of a similar secretary in The Henry Ford Museum (with a shelf clock attached) which may also be of Rhode Island origin. The apron is identical with that used on a desk and bookcase by the illusive Jo Sayre of Green County, Kentucky;<sup>9</sup> perhaps not such a coincidence since Sayre may have had his cabinetmaker's training in Rhode Island.<sup>10</sup> The ivory

<sup>9</sup>Mary James Leach, "Josiah and other Kentucky Cabinet Makers," *Antiques*, February 1954.

<sup>10</sup>James M. Arnold, *The Vital Record of R. I.* (Providence, 1893), v. 4, p. 113, lists a Joseph Sayer, born Dec. 9, 1768, and a Joshua Sayer, born July 8, 1765.

*Illustration 2.* Desk and bookcase labeled Thos. Howard, Jr., owned by Mr. and Mrs. W. Stanley Barrett, Providence, Rhode Island.





knobs are indeed a characteristic more peculiar to Providence than to other New England areas. Thomas Howard, Jr., advertised in the March 1812 *Providence Gazette* "600 ivory knobs on a new and improved plan, warranted." Beds with ivory escutcheons were also a Providence product.<sup>11</sup> Between 1814 and 1819 Howard imported through the firm of Brown and Ives thousands of dollars worth of ivory.<sup>12</sup> In one shipload alone in 1816 he paid \$27,140.50 for "elephants' teeth and schrevilla (scrivello)" but sold to Mrs. Drown of Warren, Gideon Young, and Daniel Dailey over \$3,000 worth of this shipment. This was the beginning of an ivory business which was later expanded to Philadelphia.<sup>13</sup> In 1827 Howard had sold his Providence furniture warehouse business and kept only his ivory wholesale activities.<sup>14</sup> In fact Howard's son Joseph (b. 1803) seems to have acted as his father's agent in these wholesale activities. Joseph died at Funchal on the island of Madeira in 1837 while in pursuit of the family business.<sup>15</sup>

Thomas Howard, Jr., was born in Pawtuxet in 1774, on the Warwick side of the Pawtuxet River, the grandson of John Howard, who had arrived in Rhode Island in the early part of the eighteenth century from England. Thomas, Sr., (1733-1818) who had married Abigail Lawton (1750), became a baker and lived in a gambrel-roofed house near the junction of the present Narragansett Parkway and the old Post Road, close by the bridge over the Pawtuxet River. He had bought the land in 1774 together with a house and bake shop from George Arnold, a descendant of the original grantee, William Arnold.<sup>16</sup> In the same year he obtained from George Arnold a right-of-way across Peck Lane to a wharf on the Pawtuxet River.<sup>17</sup> Here he imported flour for his bread and shipped his baked loaves on board a small boat to market in Providence.

<sup>11</sup>The large canopy bed, formerly in the Carrington House Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design and thought to be the work of MacIntire, is conceded now to be of Providence origin.

<sup>12</sup>Brown and Ives Papers, Petty Ledger No. 7, p. 83, John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, Providence, R. I.

<sup>13</sup>*Philadelphia Directory*, 1829.

<sup>14</sup>(Providence) *Manufacturers' and Farmers' Journal*, March 1, 1827.

<sup>15</sup>*Providence Directory*, 1824, lists Joseph as a broker. "First Congregational Society Pew Holders 1816," *Rhode Island History*, v. 11, p. 46.

<sup>16</sup>Warwick Town Records, Book 11, p. 44.

<sup>17</sup>*Idem*, p. 45.

In 1792 Thomas, Sr., acquired two lots of land from Gideon Frost up and across the Post Road abutting on land owned by Col. Samuel Aborn, Benjamin Ellis, and one Bartlett.<sup>18</sup> However, the elder Thomas evidently did not have the business acumen evinced by his son, for in 1795 we find he began to sell his land to Thomas, Jr.: first, the Frost lot he had so recently acquired, then in 1798 all the real estate he owned (including a dwelling) in return for a dowry of \$70 to each of his three daughters when they should marry, and in consideration of an extra \$100 he secured a life estate on his son's property.<sup>19</sup>

Thomas, Jr., was well enough established to marry on November 28, 1798, Mary Humphrey of Barrington.<sup>20</sup> He had already set up a cabinetmaker's business in Providence. Four years earlier Thomas, Jr., and his brother Joseph had sallied forth to the larger town, Joseph as a housewright and Thomas, Jr., as a cabinetmaker. They chose the newly established commercial area on the west side of the Weybosset Bridge.<sup>21</sup> The venture did not prove successful and in 1795 Thomas sold his half interest in this land to Joseph and advertised October 15, 1795, that he was going home to Pawtuxet where he would "be happy to attend the commands of his old customers and such others as may please to employ him."<sup>22</sup> Obviously Thomas, Jr., not only spent time in working on fine pieces like the Barrett secretary (*Illustration 2*), but had an eye out for every possible dollar, for in 1800 he had taken on a "concession for installing a new method of fitting windows to stand without weights or spring" from one Thomas Overton of Providence.<sup>23</sup> By 1804 Howard had built up such a backlog of fine furniture that he essayed a bold move: a "big time" advertisement in *The Providence Gazette* in which he listed a considerable array of items (*Illustration 3*). His "secretaries with bookcases and pannel doors" refer to the type shown in *Illustration 2*. "Serpentine, elliptic, sash cornered or straight front side boards" suggest the Hepplewhite

<sup>18</sup>*Ibid.*, Book 12, p. 507.

<sup>19</sup>*Ibid.*, Book 13, p. 188, 474, 475.

<sup>20</sup>Frederick Adams Virkus, ed., *The Abridged Compendium of American Genealogy the First Families of America* . . . (Chicago, 1925), v. 1, p. 781-2.

<sup>21</sup>Dec. 18, 1784, "James Sabin and wife, Nancy, for the sum of 150 dollars granted to Joseph Howard and Thomas Howard Jr., both of Providence, Housewright & Cabinet-maker, as tenants-in-common a lot of land situated on the west side of the Weybosset Bridge." Providence R.I. Deed Book, No. 24, p. 118.

<sup>22</sup>*The Providence Gazette*, Oct. 15, 24, 31, 1795.

<sup>23</sup>*Ibid.*, Aug. 30, 1800.



taste, while "reeded post bedsteads" give evidence of the emerging Sheraton style.

The young cabinetmaker's industry paid off, and shrewdly he continued to invest in land and buildings near the houses he had bought in 1798 from his father. In 1817 Peleg Arnold sold Thomas, Jr., a "lot of land and barn, 50 feet fronting on the lane and gangway leading from the estate of the late Job Randall."<sup>24</sup> In 1808 he secured from Benjamin Smith a half acre near the Frost lot.<sup>25</sup> In 1810 he felt it necessary to charge his father \$10 a year rent although he had already given him life tenancy.<sup>26</sup> His last property deal in Pawtuxet was the acquisition from John Anthony Aborn of a house and lot on the west side of the Post Road near the Great Bridge for \$1,600.<sup>27</sup>

It was doubtless in this period that Howard made the three truncated Hepplewhite chairs, now the property of Miss Alice Mauran of Providence, and by family tradition, bought at the Howard shop on South

<sup>24</sup>Warwick Town Records, Book 15, p. 143.

<sup>25</sup>*Ibid.*, Book 16, p. 150.

<sup>26</sup>*Idem.*, p. 22.

<sup>27</sup>Warwick Town Records, Book 16, p. 346. This house, originally a Rhodes house, was "moved from a southerly position near the edge of the water" to the Post Road and had in 1762 been sold by James Rhodes to Samuel Aborn. This is probably the present (1963) cabinet shop of C. Roland Johanson.

Providence Mutual Fire Insurance Co., Fire Records, v. 2, no. 503, p. 488. R. I. Hist. Soc. Thomas Howard Jr., insured for \$168.00 his \$1,350.00 dwelling house, shop, and store situated on the river in Pawtuxet. "The above buildings are occupied as a dwelling house, work shop, and furniture store by Thomas Howard." Notes in the Providence Preservation Society.

Illustration 3. Advertisement by Thomas Howard, Jr., in *The Providence Gazette*, June 8, 1804. R. I. H. S.

Main Street (Illustration 4). Since the Maurans and the descendants of Thomas Howard, Jr., have always been close friends this attribution seems reasonable.<sup>28</sup> Truncated Hepplewhites are far from common especially with such vigorously carved, feather designed splat as is displayed on these armchairs. Black and white geometric inlay is a characteristic of Providence cabinet-making of the classical years (Illustration 5). These chairs have a certain naïveté, a rather provincial quality, which can be assigned to a great deal of the Rhode Island work of the 1800 period. One is immediately struck by the similarity to the truncated side chair in the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum in New York, which has been attributed because of the rake of the legs and slight thickening at the base to Elbert Anderson, who worked in New York 1789-1800 (Illustration 6). Alexander Hamilton also owned truncated shield-back Hepple-

<sup>28</sup>Not only were the Mauran and Howard families neighbors in Providence but they were also related. The wives of Carlo Mauran and Thomas Howard, Jr., were first cousins.



Illustration 4. Truncated Hepplewhite armchair, by family tradition from the shop of Thomas Howard, Jr.; owned by Miss Alice E. Mauran, Providence, Rhode Island.

Illustration 5. Detail of the back of the truncated Hepplewhite armchair shown in Illustration 4.



THOMAS HOWARD,  
CABINET and CHAIR-MAKER, at PAWTUXET,  
turns his Thanks to his Friends and the  
Public for their Custom since his Removal  
from Providence, and solicits a Continu-  
ance of the same. He has on Hand and  
makes the following Pieces of Furniture,

IDE-BOARDS, with serpentine, elliptic,  
sash-cornered or straight fronts; ward-  
robes, secretaries, ditto with book cases, glass  
fronts; ditto with pannel doors, ladies secreta-  
ries, swelled front desks, ditto with book  
cases, straight front ditto, portable ditto,  
with frames and drawers; portable ditto with  
drawers, swelled bureaux, 5 drawer ditto,  
drawer ditto, straight front; night tables,  
common ditto, reeded ditto, &c. wash-  
stands, plain for a corner, with a drawer;  
to reeded door and cover, common square  
bedsteads, reeded post ditto with urns,  
bed ditto carved, field ditto, maple ditto,  
in ditto reeded, cot ditto, stump ditto,  
feet dining tables, 4 ditto, 4½ ditto, 4½  
ditto with 6 legs, sets of dining tables, Pem-  
bleke ditto, card tables, sash-cornered and  
elliptic; light stands, ladies work tables with  
sashes, calyx and rolling chairs of all  
kinds, mahogany chairs of all kinds, with  
and without stuffing; butlers' trays of vari-  
ous kinds, clock cases with and without  
clocks, swing cradles, common ditto, bed-  
steads, fire and chair screens, and many other  
articles too tedious to mention in an adver-  
tisement.

N. B. He has most of said articles on hand,  
offered in the neatest manner. Work put  
for shipping on the shortest notice, and  
lowest as can be purchased, according to the  
demand, in any part of the United



white chairs, but they are far different not only from Howard's version but also from the Metropolitan Museum chair, which has a feather and shell carved splat identical with the Howard chair. The satinwood and ebony inlay while not exactly the same follows a similar naïve, geometric black and white pattern of Howard's bellflower found on the card tables sold to Edward Carrington in 1817 (*Illustration 10*). Triangular stringing surrounds a wide satinwood panel on the crest of the Providence chair while the New York chair has simple stringing and lacks the broad panel. The splay and strength of its tapering front legs gives more sophistication to the latter, but the appearance of the back of the two chairs is strikingly similar, as seen in the cut of the splat and the inlay. One must attribute both chairs to the same shop. Since Howard did not begin to import chairs from Newark and New York for his wholesale business until 1813 (and these were cheap Windsor or fancy chairs) one must conclude that this truncated heavy mahogany Hepplewhite chair was made in Howard's shop either by the master or by able apprentices.<sup>29</sup>

There is good probability that the small hunt board or server, formerly in the Hoffman Collection and now in the Society's dining-room, may also be a Howard product of the 1800 period (*Illustration 7*).

Of mahogany and simply strung with a tulip wood inlay, this piece has a characteristic Howard feature: a simple and rather crude crossed branch and leaf inlaid design whose details remind us strongly of the bellflowers used on the Metropolitan Museum chair. One of a small group of skillfully executed pieces, this server lacks the broad variegated banded inlay found on at least two

<sup>29</sup>On April 3, 1813, he announces that Tunis & Nutman of Newark, N. J., have appointed him their sole agent for the sale of chairs. It was not until Jan. 11, 1823, that Howard ran a small advertisement in *The Providence Journal* offering "4000 fancy and Windsor chairs of superior quality 50¢ to 5 dollars."

*Illustration 6.* Truncated Hepplewhite side chair in the American Wing. Courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum, New York City.



other examples. In all of these servers the body is so well handled as to eliminate a boxy effect, and all are decorated with this simple crossed vine inlay.<sup>30</sup> Moreover, all these small hunt boards hail from the vicinity of Providence. There is a pair of card tables in the Old Deerfield Museum with this type of vine inlay. The similarity of the crossed vine inlay is striking (*Illustrations 8, 9*).

Evidently residence outside of Providence was a handicap to Howard because on December 2, 1807, he "offered for sale a most extensive assortment of furniture ever offered in this state. Being much in want of money it will be sold at very low rate and delivered in Providence in good order. After 7 years practice he has obtained the art of varnishing & japanning furniture in a manner inferior to none . . . Likewise for sale, 20,000 feet of seasoned mahogany Boards and Plank of all dimensions and a small assortment of pine lumber."<sup>31</sup> Here, then, Howard begins his wholesale and warehouse activities, first in dealing in lumber and then later in upholstery materials.<sup>32</sup> In an 1812 advertisement Thomas lists 200 tables of various kinds, 120 portable desks, 25 sofas, 40 bedsteads, 30 wash stands, 100 gilt and mahogany framed looking-glasses and 1,000 fancy and Windsor

<sup>30</sup>Stebbins House in the Old Deerfield Museum.

<sup>31</sup>*The Providence Gazette*, Dec. 2, Dec. 19, 1807.

<sup>32</sup>*Ibid.*, March 7, 1812.

*Illustration 7.* Small server by Thomas Howard, Jr., in John Brown House, from the bequest of Henry A. Hoffman to The Rhode Island Historical Society.





chairs. By this time he was out of the woods financially and well on his way to wealth. The evidence of the 1,000 fancy & Windsor chairs indicates that about this time Howard had begun to retail chairs for other cabinetmakers. By 1812 also he decided to move back to Providence again and purchased a building on South Main Street upon which he paid a moderate tax. This wooden house had two stores in its brick basement.<sup>33</sup>

Immediately after returning to Providence he began bringing in large numbers of chairs from Newark. This enlarged business activity indicates a larger market. Besides supplying furniture to the local houses Howard was sending a number of ventures by Brown and Ives ships, which by 1814 supplied him with large amounts of ivory for his wholesale trade.<sup>34</sup> In 1816 he furnished chairs for their counting rooms, made furniture for Thomas Ives, and outfitted the ship *Charlotte* to the amount of \$1,020.87. That year Howard's ivory business with Brown and Ives totaled \$27,140.50, a fairly substantial bill, which Howard settled in June with a \$1,000.00 cash payment and notes on Providence and New York banks, maturing in three months.<sup>35</sup> He must have foreseen a rapid turnover in his ivory business,

<sup>33</sup>Providence tax books mention T. Howard Jr. first in 1813 as paying town and state taxes, in 1818 as paying \$28.56 town tax compared to \$257.60, the tax of his neighbor, Welcome Arnold.

<sup>34</sup>Brown and Ives Papers, Petty Ledger no. 7, p. 83; no. 8, p. 9, 124, 347.

<sup>35</sup>*Ibid.*, no. 7, p. 83, 341, 351.

Illustration 8. One of a pair of card tables, probably the work of Thomas Howard, Jr.

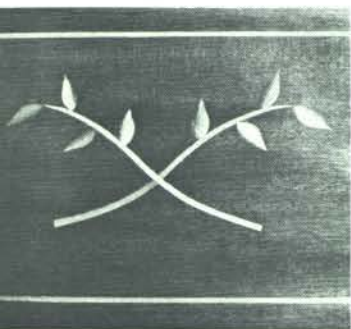


Illustration 9. Crossed vine detail of inlay of the card table shown in Illustration 8. Courtesy of Heritage Foundation, Old Deerfield, Massachusetts.



Illustration 10. One of a pair of card tables made for the prominent China trade merchant, Gen. Edward Carrington, by Thomas Howard, Jr. Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Hunter Mauran, Providence, Rhode Island.

resulting from the general improvement in all lines of trade at the close of the war with Great Britain. Howard, however, could count on the Brown and Ives's payment of \$4,423.00 for furniture, cargo, and sundry other items for that year. By the twenties then, we can safely say that our artisan, Howard, has turned merchant and become a substantial citizen.

Howard was also doing an extensive business with Edward Carrington during these years, billing him on November 20, 1817, for a pair of card tables (Illustration 10) in the currently popular D shape. The detail (Illustration 11) shows the same simple black and white stylized bellflower used in his earlier pieces together with a simple urn incorporating a similar bellflower inlay. Triangular stringing such as that used on the upper panel of the truncated Hepplewhite armchair



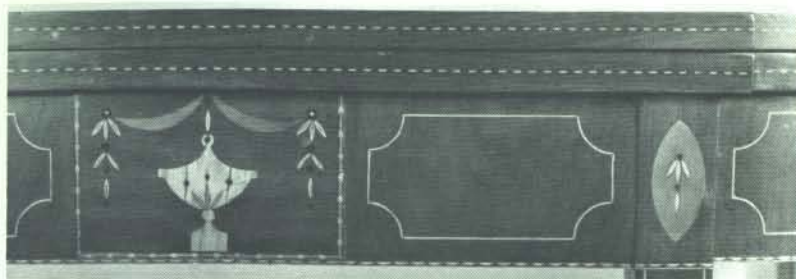


Illustration 11. Detail of the card tables made for Gen. Carrington by Thomas Howard, Jr., owned by Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Hunter Mauran.

finishes the base of the apron, while the simple rounded end stringing of the intervening panel follows the style of the Society's hunt board (Illustration 7). A bill of sale in the Carrington Papers (Illustration 12) indicates the pair cost \$80.00.<sup>36</sup>

There were many ventures of furniture sent on the Carrington ships like the one on the brig *Viper* to Africa in 1818 in which Howard sent "10 yellow gilt Windsor chairs and 1 doz. green gilt Windsor

<sup>36</sup>R. I. Hist. Soc. Carrington Papers — House, Furniture, Carriage & Personal Bills.

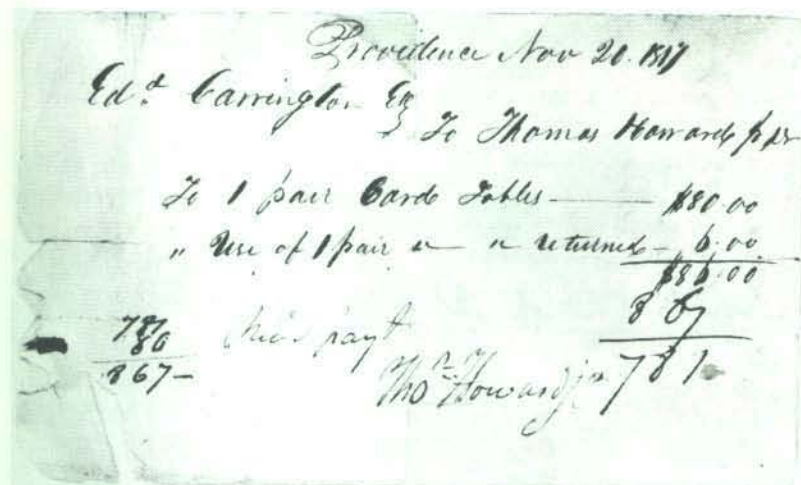


Illustration 12. Bill of sales for a pair of card tables made for Edward Carrington by Thomas Howard, Jr. Carrington Papers, R.I.H.S.

chairs." Among other items is a sizable lot of furniture.<sup>37</sup> During 1820-21 he sold Carrington a long list of upholstery materials, tea trays, knives and forks, as well as mahogany washstands, snuffers, and the ever-present ivory commode knobs. In these upholstery materials there is mention of haircloth, morines, fringes, tassels, cards, and carpet binding. Howard launched quite a venture on the ship *George* on June 28, 1821, which included mahogany dining tables, book-cases, washstands. Again he sent ventures on the ship *Trumbull* in 1823 and the *Panther* in 1825.<sup>38</sup>

The success of his furniture warehouse business and ivory trade led Howard to attempt to extend his business to another city. Philadelphia offered opportunities greater than Providence. He took his family and tried his luck at expansion in that city in 1819 soon after the birth of his son, Ezra Williams Howard. For some reason this move did not prove satisfactory, and he returned to Providence after a year's absence. Later he resumed business in Philadelphia (1831-1833) as an ivory dealer only.<sup>39</sup>

The small quarters at 88 South Main Street south of Market Square had to be enlarged. Howard had already occupied 13 Cheapside as a wholesale store or "furnishing warehouse." By 1820 he obviously had to expand to No. 2 North Water Street, for he held a furniture auction there on April 29, 1820, and described the store "as amply large and commodious therefore ladies will find no inconvenience in attending."<sup>40</sup> Enthusiasm for classical styles being still rampant, we note that Howard offered "Grecian as well as common sofas," along with easy "lolling" chairs, bureaus, night cabinets, and Pembroke tables. We assume that the Sheraton style of furniture was in full swing in Providence in the year 1820. B. & T. Hoppin, Auctioneers, were knocking down a large assortment of "elegant mahogany" pieces to the ladies as well as the gentlemen that day.

<sup>37</sup>*Ibid.* Papers of the Brig *Viper*, 1815-1817.

<sup>38</sup>*Ibid.* Ships' Papers.

<sup>39</sup>*De Silver's Philadelphia Directories 1831-1833.* In his will, in which he calls himself "of Philadelphia," made in 1831 and probated in Providence in 1833... he names his mother, Abigail; his wife, Mary; sister, Martha Carpenter; sister, Abigail who m. Duty Roberts; Mary Niles and four children, who were: Joseph, (1803-1837) buried at Funchal, Island of Madeira; Marion m. Dr. Lewis W. Clifford; Elizabeth m. Mayor Thomas M. Burgess; and Ezra W. Howard...

*Rhode Island History*, v. 11, p. 46.

<sup>40</sup>*Providence Patriot*, April 9, 1820.



To learn how Thomas Howard, Jr., acquired his second house on South Main Street we must go to Mayor Walter Danforth's "Reminiscences of Providence" given to enthusiastic audiences over a period of years between 1835 and 1861. The good mayor used the Society's famous theater curtain view of Providence by Worrall to spellbind his listeners with tales of early Providence and its curious citizens. An old photograph in the Society shows a view of South Main Street looking north (front cover). The wooden gambrel-roofed house to the left was the house to which Howard moved in 1812.<sup>41</sup> Mayor Danforth tells us how the fine three-and-a-half story brick building to the right, probably designed by the famous Providence architect, John Holden Greene, happened to be built. "Between the Burroughs, or Thomas Howard, house and Welcome Arnold's farther down South Main Street, were three old wooden buildings occupied by a nondescript corps of tenants, keeping hucksteries and grog shops. From the aspect of the buildings and the looks and habits of the tenants and patrons of the shops, it had obtained the name of *Rotten Row* and was a nuisance to those who lived in the vicinity. Dr. Richmond and the late T. Howard obtained a long lease of the ground, abated the nuisance and erected the brick dwelling house which now occupies the place. . . ."<sup>42</sup>

The 1820s saw a great increase in the amount of Howard's wholesale business caused by the rising standard of living and the concentration of money in Rhode Island by the textile industry. The common man, and there were many of them, had begun to spend his salary for furniture. The Eastern, West Indian, and South American trades brought wealth to many a Providence family. Buying power was not restricted to the few merchant princes as in the eighteenth century. The advertisement of January 8, 1823, (*Illustration 13*) shows the addition to Howard's Furnishing Warehouse of hardware items such as screws, hinges, brass andirons, candlesticks, lamps, bellows, masons' and carpenters' tools, and carpets. Upholstery items were extended, and a note advised retailers to outfit themselves for their trade from the Howard store. Pianofortes of "Geibs Make" were advertised with much guile; the same old hardwood lumberyard near Cheapside was

<sup>41</sup>Fire Records of the Providence Mutual Insurance Company, v. 6, show Howard insured in 1820 a "self occupied wooden house, the lower storey of which is brick with two shops, 40' front, 38' front to rear, 3 stories in the rear addition."

<sup>42</sup>*Rhode Island History*, v. 11, p. 54.

## PROVIDENCE FURNISHING WARE-HOUSE.

ENTRANCE NO. 13, CHEAPSIDE.

### THOMAS HOWARD

Continues to furnish, for his friends and the public,  
CABINET FURNITURE of the most fashionable kinds.

HE HAS NOW ON HAND,  
A very extensive assortment of useful and elegant FURNITURE, accompanied with almost every article made use of in families—such as

Carpetings of all kinds, Newark Chairs, both Fancy and Windsor, made and warranted by Tunis & Nutman; also, other kinds of Newark Chairs, of a more inferior quality; best New-York ditto; gilt and Mahogany framed Looking-Glasses, of various sizes; Dressing ditto; a very extensive assortment of Hard Ware, such as Knives and Forks, Brass Andirons and Shovels and Tongs to match, of handsome patterns; Brass Candlesticks, stand and socket Lamps; Japanned ditto, Brass Kettles of all sizes, at wholesale or retail;

all kinds of Cabinet Trimmings, Masons', Carpenters' and Cabinet-makers' Tools; Hinges, brass and iron, Wood Screws, Bed Screws, Irish, American and other kinds of Glue; Glass Paper, fancy and common Bellows, all kinds of Brushes, Ivory Combs at wholesale or retail, shell and horn ditto, at retail; a great variety of ivory vest, shirt, suspender and coat Buttons; Pins and Needles of first quality. Tooth-Brushes by the groce or single, &c. &c. &c.

### ALSO,

#### AN ASSORTMENT OF UPHOLSTERY.

Such as Hair Seating, from 18 to 32 inches, Girt Webb, curled Hair by the bale or at retail. Hair Mattresses of different sizes, Feathers by the pound or sack, of the first quality and no others; Bed-Ticking, Beds ready made of the best geese feathers, Brass Nails, Towcloth, green Morine for pews and covering sofas, Tassels, green Cord, Bed Lace, &c. &c. &c.

N. B. Those who wish to furnish themselves with Goods of the above description, are invited to call and see for themselves. He assures those who see proper to call, that they will find an establishment not equalled for variety and quantity in the United States: the prices are low, and the Goods will show for themselves.

January 8.

*Illustration 13.* Advertisement by Thomas Howard, Jr., at the height of his wholesale trade, in the *Providence Journal* of January 8, 1823, R. I. H. S.

evidently doing a thriving business.<sup>43</sup> Howard must have remembered later that he had forgotten to mention the extraordinary quantity of Windsor and fancy chairs he had on hand, because on January 11, 1823, he offered no fewer than 4,000 of them of "superior quality with handsome patterns from 50 cents to 5 dollars."<sup>44</sup>

<sup>43</sup>*The Providence Gazette*, Jan. 8, 1823.

<sup>44</sup>*The Providence Gazette*, Jan. 1, 1823.



Between 1820 and 1827 Howard's operations increased steadily: outfitting ships, venture cargoes, and the lucrative ivory business. At length he felt unable to cope with so great a mass of divergent details; therefore on March 1, 1827, he announced that he was giving up his Providence business and selling everything at his stores on North Main and North Water streets at auction.<sup>45</sup>

On March 13, 1828, he extended his land holdings from his house on South Main up to Benefit Street. He then owned a greater part of the block on the north side of Planet Street.<sup>46</sup> Nothing was done to improve this land until after Howard's death, when according to the terms of his will the three small buildings situated on Benefit Street were torn down and the present triple row house built, now numbered 304, 306, and 308.

Ventures in real estate had always had an attraction for him since his Pawtuxet days, and in 1826-1827 he invested in a five-story, granite office block fronting on Market Square with an addition projecting on North Main Street just opposite the Market House. This block was let to printers, tailors, attorneys, and the Providence Journal, while three dry goods firms, Messrs. R. Harding and Son, B. and G. A. Taylor, and James E. Butts, sold their wares on the first floor.<sup>47</sup> Having begun to realize a substantial income in rents, Howard returned to Philadelphia, where he had established himself briefly in the ivory business back in 1819. There he was listed as a "gentleman" in the city directories.<sup>48</sup>

Life seemed serene until a huge fire struck the five-story granite building at Market and Main streets in Providence. There is an account of the bravery of the local people in helping to carry out prized papers from the offices in spite of "molten lead pouring down like lava" on the struggling firemen below from the Providence Journal room and the job printers' shop (Smith & Parmenter's). But the blaze was quenched and stock taken of the damage, well covered by the Mutual Insurance Company, amounting to \$6,000. Howard tendered his thanks to his neighbors for their help and regretted that he

<sup>45</sup>*Manufacturers' and Farmers' Journal*, March 1, 1827.

<sup>46</sup>Providence Records of Deeds, Book 55, p. 123.

<sup>47</sup>*Manufacturers' and Farmers' Journal*, March 1, 1827. R. I. H. S.

<sup>48</sup>*Paxton's Annual Directory* of 1819 lists Howard, Thomas, Gentleman, 257 North Front.

had not been in Providence on the night of the fire.<sup>49</sup>

Until 1833 Howard divided his time between Philadelphia and Providence, living the life of a wealthy business man. He died February 4, 1833, in the fifty-ninth year of his age and was buried from his home on South Main Street.<sup>50</sup>

His estate, large for those days (\$90,363.81) was made up of his house and land, stocks, notes, and personal property. In his will, executed by George Curtis (since Thomas Burgess, his son-in-law, who later became mayor of Providence, had declined to draw it up) was mention of 70 elephants' tusks, already sold to Howard & George Reid Co., for \$2,506.50. The furniture, though by our standards extremely valuable, was appraised in very low terms indeed, except two pier tables "in Philadelphia" that were valued at \$40.00. No doubt these were in the French Empire style, so popular at the moment. Among the storeroom items were 48 yards of Saxony and 24 yards of Brussels carpets valued at \$144 and a painted floor carpet at \$20, which latter type of floor covering was made by putting layers of paint in designs on canvas. Many of these geometric "painted carpets" were made on shipboard by sailors and can be seen in late eighteenth and early nineteenth century paintings.<sup>51</sup>

So Thomas Howard, Jr., lived across two eras. He started in the artisan tradition of the eighteenth century (trained in the late Chippendale styles), saw the amazing revolution instigated by Robert Adam, Thomas Hope, and George Smith, was affected by French classicism of the 1790s, and finally adopted the Egyptian motifs inspired by Napoleon's campaign of 1798-1802. The new nation saw itself as the second Roman Republic. Its leaders threw themselves wholeheartedly into a furor of imitation of the stylistic trends of classical art in the same way as they likened their military heroes to Cincinnati. Both the United States and France, the two new republics, enthusiastically adopted classical designs produced by the geometric arrangement of ovals, rectangles, and squares, seen best in the inlay of their furniture. The shape of their pieces was disciplined, self-contained, not fluid and restless as that of the preceding rococo Chippendale period, against which these republicans violently re-

<sup>49</sup>*Manufacturers' and Farmers' Journal*, April 2, 1827.

<sup>50</sup>*Providence Journal*, Feb. 11, 1833.

<sup>51</sup>Providence City Records, No. A547U. Record Book No. 4.



belled. Surfaces were made to appear slick and taut with veneers of exotic woods, contrasting with the plastic quality of the carved surfaces of the previous period.

In the years between 1790 and 1810 Thomas Howard, Jr., followed the current trend: to use the straight tapering legs of the Hepplewhite style, to create serpentine case pieces with emphasis on inlay, to adopt Adamesque urn finials, to employ the flaring French bracket feet on chests of drawers, and to make shield back chairs. From 1800 to 1820 he adopted Sheraton furniture forms with its tapering reeded legs, square backs on chairs and sofas, convex ends on case pieces, projecting sections and projecting colonettes. Between 1815 and 1830 he was affected by the late Sheraton, or Early Empire, followed by the Late Empire (1820-1830) designs, stemming directly from the heavier Napoleonic styles including the Greek klismos chair with incurved leg, the Roman curule base, the rolled back, winged and caryatid supports, upswinging arms on sofas, lion's paw foot, lyre splats, and "gondala" lines on sleigh beds.

Like Duncan Phyfe of New York, Howard was swept along by rapid changes of the 1790-1820 period, and like Phyfe he saw the importance of the furniture wholesaler selling related lines of merchandise. As a true follower of the nineteenth century economy he engaged in the venture cargo, the furniture auction, and the wholesaling of furniture and ivory. He had dipped into real estate deals; he had bought and sold commercial paper, with the result that when he died he had indeed a tidy fortune, — another success story of the Industrial Revolution in New England, where an artisan turned merchant could take his place in the upper class by way of success in business.



## JOHN SMITH, THE MILLER, OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

### SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS

by CHARLES WILLIAM FARNHAM

[continued from October 1963, inside back cover]

46 WILLIAM<sup>5</sup> SMITH (*Daniel*,<sup>4</sup> *Benjamin*,<sup>3</sup> *John*,<sup>2</sup> *John*<sup>1</sup>), b. 2 Feb. 1727; d. in North Providence 5 March 1812; m. 13 Oct. 1754 Abigail (Dexter) Smith,<sup>443</sup> widow of a cousin, Capt. William Smith of Providence, son of Joseph Smith. *The Providence Gazette* issue of 13 Dec. 1792 records the death of Abigail Smith, wife of William, at North Providence at an advanced age.

"Service Records . . . of Revolutionary Soldiers copied by Beacon Pole Hill Chapter, D.A.R. . . . 1934" at The Rhode Island Historical Society lists among Revolutionary War records that of William Smith: "Private in Captain Sprague's company, Col. Chad Brown's regiment, Aug. 21 to Aug. 31, 1778, on the Expedition to Newport."

Chapin notes on Smith families at The Rhode Island Historical Society include a letter from the late Amasa Eaton in which he said that William Smith, son of Daniel Smith, "lived in the house I live in (Smith Street) or part of it." In 1813 William's executors sold his Smith Street holdings with buildings to James B. Mason.

William Smith was a merchant, associated with his stepson John Smith, son of Joseph. John Smith was identified as a distiller in some Providence deeds, and possibly William also engaged in that business. Deeds in Providence and Gloucester record their joint business dealings.

William made a will on 14 Dec. 1811, and it was probated 9 March 1812 in North Providence. It left to grandson William Smith \$100 for natural life, to be paid yearly; to nephew Benjamin Smith the other inventory of the estate, and in case his grandson William died without issue his share was to go to Benjamin Smith with Benjamin as residuary legatee. Benjamin Smith, Capt. Stephen Olney and Ephraim Bowen Jr. of Warwick were executors, with Hazael Smith, Joseph Olney and George Smith as witnesses to the will. The estate was found to be insolvent.<sup>444</sup>

<sup>443</sup>Arnold, *op. cit.*, Providence Marriages, 2:172.

<sup>444</sup>North Providence Probate, 1:519.



William is buried in the family lot in North Burial Ground.

CHILDREN OF WILLIAM<sup>5</sup> AND ABIGAIL (DEXTER) SMITH:

- I ABIGAIL<sup>6</sup> SMITH, b. 1754. *The Providence Gazette* issue of 1 Sept. 1771 reports the marriage of Abigail, daughter of William Smith, merchant, and Joseph Crawford at Providence. Her gravestone in the family lot of the Crawfords in North Burial Ground reads: "Abigail, wife of Joseph Crawford and daughter of William and Abigail Smith, died 9 Oct. 1773, at 19 years."
- 96 II DANIEL<sup>6</sup> SMITH, b. about 1757; d. 29 April 1780; m. Sally Hopkins at Woonsocket 3 Oct. 1776, daughter of Christopher and Sarah (Jenckes) Hopkins.<sup>445</sup> Daniel was a merchant and lived in North Providence. He is buried in the family lot at North Burial Ground. His wife is not buried beside him, but *The Providence Gazette* issue of 21 April 1792 reports the death of Sarah, widow of Daniel Smith, in her thirty-third year.

CHILDREN OF DANIEL<sup>6</sup> AND SALLY (HOPKINS) SMITH:

- 1 ABIGAIL<sup>7</sup> SMITH, b. 8 Sept. 1777; the *Gazette* of 11 May 1793 lists the death of Abby, "only daughter of the late Daniel Smith, merchant," at North Providence in her sixteenth year.
  - 2 WILLIAM HOPKINS<sup>7</sup> SMITH, b. 16 Sept. 1778. His gravestone in the family burial lot records his death 22 March 1831. A North Providence deed of 2 Dec. 1811 records the sale by William Hopkins Smith of North Providence to George Smith of North Providence of one-half of an undeveloped lot which William Smith (his grandfather) had conveyed to William H. Smith and Hazael Smith by deed 18 Sept. 1810.<sup>446</sup>
- 47 BENJAMIN<sup>5</sup> SMITH (*Daniel*,<sup>4</sup> *Benjamin*,<sup>3</sup> *John*,<sup>2</sup> *John*<sup>1</sup>), b. 7 April 1728; d. 16 Sept. 1759. A Providence Town Council entry at that time refers to him as Capt. Benjamin Smith and records that he died of smallpox. He is buried with his parents in the family lot at North Burial Ground. There is no indication that he married and had issue.

<sup>445</sup>Arnold, *op. cit.*, Providence Marriages, 2:172.

<sup>446</sup>North Providence Deeds, 3:739.

48 JOB<sup>5</sup> SMITH (*Daniel*,<sup>4</sup> *Benjamin*,<sup>3</sup> *John*,<sup>2</sup> *John*<sup>1</sup>), b. 24 Sept. 1736; d. 15 Aug. 1818; m. 3 Feb. 1765 Ruth Harris, daughter of Henry and Hope (Hawkins) Harris of Providence,<sup>447</sup> b. 2 April 1740; death recorded in *The Providence Gazette* issue of 16 Sept. 1820. Job was a Quaker.

Job ran a distillery business in Providence but spent the latter part of his life in Johnston, near Manton, where he built a house.

Only three of his children survived him: Henry, Benjamin and Susan. His will left a life interest in his property to his wife, and after her to Benjamin and Susan, "Henry having had his share." Benjamin was executor of the will. A division of property was later made between Benjamin and Susan, with Susan retaining the residence.<sup>448</sup>

Job and members of his family are buried in his lot in North Burial Ground, Providence.

CHILDREN OF JOB<sup>5</sup> AND RUTH (HARRIS) SMITH:

- 97 I COL. HENRY<sup>6</sup> SMITH, b. 10 Feb. 1766;<sup>449</sup> his death recorded in the June 28, 1818 issue of *The Providence Phenix*; m. 20 Oct. 1799 by Rev. Stephen Gano, Abigail Crawford Allen, daughter of Zachariah Allen Sr., who d. 28 Sept. 1855 at seventy-nine.

Colonel Henry was a Providence merchant. He was senior member of the Rhode Island Senate in 1805 and for a short time served as acting governor.

Colonel Henry built a mansion at the corner of Smith and Davis streets, Providence, early in the 1800's, and it was purchased in 1837 by Alexander Duncan. On the site of the Henry Smith mansion was erected the present State House Annex.

The widow, Abby C. Smith, was administratrix of the estate of Henry Smith, with Philip Allen and Zachariah Allen as sureties. The inventory totaled \$3,685.<sup>450</sup>

CHILDREN OF COL. HENRY<sup>6</sup> AND ABIGAIL C. (ALLEN) SMITH:

- 1 HENRY<sup>7</sup> SMITH, b. 27 Jan. 1803; d. 29 Dec. 1820.
- 2 WILLIAM<sup>7</sup> SMITH, d. 27 April 1805 at three months.  
Both children buried beside their mother in Crawford lot at North Burial Ground.

<sup>447</sup>Arnold, *op. cit.*, Providence Marriages, 2:172.

<sup>448</sup>Johnston, Rhode Island, Probate.

<sup>449</sup>Arnold, *op. cit.*, Providence Births, 2:246.

<sup>450</sup>Providence Probate, 3:40.



- 98 II BENJAMIN<sup>6</sup> SMITH, b. 14 Jan. 1768;<sup>451</sup> d. 29 Dec. 1824; m. Frances Fosdick, daughter of Mehitable Fosdick of Portland, Maine, who d. 23 Dec. 1834, at fifty-three years. Both Benjamin and Frances, with members of their family, are buried in the Job Smith lot at North Burial Ground. Benjamin lived on Davis Street in Providence.

CHILDREN OF BENJAMIN<sup>6</sup> AND FRANCES (FOSDICK) SMITH:<sup>452</sup>

- 1 ALBERT THOMAS FOSDICK<sup>7</sup> SMITH, b. 1806; d. 5 May 1834; the *Rhode Island American* issue of 3 Oct. 1827 reported the marriage of Albert T. F. Smith and Emma J. Dunn, daughter of the late Capt. Bernon Dunn, by the Rev. Dr. Gano.
- 2 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN<sup>7</sup> SMITH, b. 26 Dec. 1808; d. 2 Jan. 1859.
- 3 SUSAN ADELINE<sup>7</sup> SMITH, m. 7 June 1838 Abner Gay Jr.
- 4 EMMA FRANCES<sup>7</sup> SMITH, d. 14 Oct. 1879.  
There may have been other children born to Benjamin and Frances Smith.

- III SARAH<sup>6</sup> SMITH, b. 22 Feb. 1770;<sup>453</sup> d. 3 Sept. 1788.

- IV DORCAS<sup>6</sup> SMITH, b. 24 May 1772;<sup>454</sup> d. 22 Oct. 1772.

- V ABIGAIL<sup>6</sup> SMITH, b. 29 Nov. 1773;<sup>455</sup> her death is reported in the *Rhode Island American* issue of 30 March 1814; m. 6 Dec. 1793 Col. Edward Dexter,<sup>456</sup> of Edward, b. in North Providence in 1770 and d. 23 Aug. 1860. He m. (2) Sarah Mumford, of John Mumford. His residence in later years was in Seekonk, Massachusetts.

CHILDREN OF COL. EDWARD AND ABIGAIL<sup>6</sup> (SMITH) DEXTER:<sup>457</sup>

- 1 SALLY SMITH<sup>7</sup> DEXTER (unmarried), b. Providence 1797.
- 2 EDWARD<sup>7</sup> DEXTER, b. Providence 1799.
- 3 HENRY HARRIS<sup>7</sup> DEXTER, b. Providence 1801.
- 4 FRANCES SUSAN<sup>7</sup> DEXTER (unmarried), b. Providence 1803.

- VI THOMAS<sup>6</sup> SMITH, b. 10 Aug. 1775;<sup>458</sup> d. 18 March 1776.

<sup>451</sup>Arnold, *op. cit.*, Providence Births, 2:246.

<sup>452</sup>Chapin notes and North Burial Ground gravestone inscriptions.

<sup>453-455</sup>Arnold, *op. cit.*, Providence Births, 2:246.

<sup>456</sup>*Ibid.*, Rev. Stephen Gano Marriages, 7:505.

<sup>457</sup>S. C. Newman, *Dexter Genealogy* (Providence, 1859), p. 62.

<sup>458-461</sup>Arnold, *op. cit.*, Providence Births, 2:246.

- 99 VII MAJOR HARRIS<sup>6</sup> SMITH, b. 2 May 1777;<sup>459</sup> d. 1 Dec. 1815 at Plymouth, Washington County, North Carolina, with his death notice referring to him as Major Harris. *The Providence Gazette* issue of 13 Aug. 1808 reported his marriage to Miss — Mackey, daughter of the late Capt. Mackey of Washington, North Carolina.

- VIII THOMAS<sup>6</sup> SMITH, b. 17 June 1779;<sup>460</sup> d. 17 Aug. 1780.

- IX SUSAN OF SUSANNA<sup>6</sup> SMITH, b. 28 May 1782;<sup>461</sup> *The Rhode Island American* issue of 16 July 1826 listed the marriage of Susan to the Hon. Nathan Brown in Johnston, Rhode Island. She was a second wife of Nathan Brown, and there was no issue. By her will made in 1853 she left her property to Phebe Brown, a stepdaughter, for life. After Phebe's death the property was to pass to Emma D. Smith, daughter of Albert Thomas Fosdick Smith, but if Emma died before Phebe Brown, the estate was to go to the Protestant Episcopal Church.

- 49 EZEKIEL<sup>5</sup> SMITH (*Capt. Solomon*,<sup>4</sup> *Benjamin*,<sup>3</sup> *John*,<sup>2</sup> *John*<sup>1</sup>), b. in Gloucester 13 March 1726;<sup>462</sup> d. in Thompson, Connecticut 18 July 1777;<sup>463</sup> m. 11 Aug. 1748 Mary Barker, daughter of Nathaniel and Mary Barker,<sup>464</sup> who died in Thompson 4 July 1777 in her 49th year.<sup>465</sup>

On 31 Oct. 1757 David Arnold of Gloucester sold the farm on which he was dwelling to Ezekiel Smith.<sup>466</sup> Then on 22 Oct. 1763 Ezekiel deeded the whole of the 45 acres he had bought of David Arnold to Joseph Olney of Gloucester for 2,000 pounds, with Mary, wife of Ezekiel, signing off her dower rights.<sup>467</sup> Another deed was registered 28 March 1764 in which Ezekiel conveyed nine acres in Gloucester to Abraham Fairfield, the land abutting Fairfield's property.<sup>468</sup> Presumably it was about this time that Ezekiel moved to Thompson.

CHILDREN OF EZEKIEL<sup>5</sup> AND MARY SMITH:<sup>469</sup>

- 100 I WILLIAM<sup>6</sup> SMITH, b. in Gloucester 14 Oct. 1748. Buried in the

<sup>462</sup>Arnold, *op. cit.*, Gloucester Births, 3:60.

<sup>463</sup>East Thompson, Connecticut, cemetery records.

<sup>464</sup>Elizabeth Frye Barker, *Barker Genealogy* (New York, 1927), p. 393.

<sup>465</sup>Gravestone record.

<sup>467</sup>*Ibid.*, 6:253.

<sup>466</sup>Gloucester Deeds, 6:212.

<sup>468</sup>*Ibid.*, 6:357.

<sup>469</sup>Arnold, *op. cit.*, Gloucester Births, 3:61.



East Thompson, Connecticut cemetery are Capt. William Smith, who d. 7 Dec. 1827 at 79 years; his wife Anna Smith who d. 8 Feb. 1812 at 51 years; and his wife Abigail who d. 27 April 1825 in her 61st year. A copy of the will of Capt. William Smith was presented to the Burrillville, Rhode Island, probate court by the executors, Asa Sheldon, Jr., and Daniel Woodward, on 8 March 1828 because of property William held in Burrillville. He mentioned his (apparently third) wife, Salvina; his brother Dexter; William Smith, the son of his brother Jonathan, deceased; Else Ann and Achsa Robins, "daughters of my wife"; his sister Sybil Converse, wife of Augustus Converse; the heirs of Michael Tourtellot, deceased; his sister, wife of Darius Bixby, or her heirs; and the heirs of his brother Jonathan Smith.

- II ELIZABETH<sup>6</sup> SMITH, b. 3 March 1750 in Glocester; m. 6 Dec. 1767 in Glocester, Michael Tourtellot, son of Abraham and Phebe (Thornton) Tourtellot.<sup>470</sup> On 30 March 1770 Abraham Tourtellot of Glocester deeded to his son Michael 61½ acres of common or undivided land on the west side of the Seven Mile Line in the original right of John Whipple, and on 19 April 1770 gave Michael 45 acres, the east part of his farm in Glocester. Some time afterward Michael moved to Thompson, Connecticut, and the 1790 census for Thompson listed in his family two males of 16 upward, one male under 16, and three females.
- III SARAH<sup>6</sup> SMITH, b. 1 Sept. 1751 in Glocester; d. 3 June 1753.
- 101 IV SOLOMON<sup>6</sup> SMITH, b. 6 Aug. 1754 in Glocester. He was not mentioned in the will of his brother William. There is a possibility that he may have been the Solomon Smith whose intentions to wed Elizabeth Hill were recorded in Mendon, Massachusetts records 29 Jan. 1785. No children were recorded in Mendon.
- V ANNE<sup>6</sup> SMITH, b. 18 June 1758 in Glocester; died young.
- VI NAOMI<sup>6</sup> SMITH, b. 18 June 1758 in Glocester.
- VII SYBIL<sup>6</sup> SMITH, b. 13 Feb. 1760 in Glocester; m. Augustus Converse of Thompson.
- 102 VIII JONATHAN<sup>6</sup> SMITH, b. 15 Dec. 1761 in Glocester. His brother William's will left to his nephew William Smith, the son of

<sup>470</sup>*Ibid.*, Glocester Marriages, 3:38.

Jonathan, deceased, and also mentioned "the heirs" of Jonathan. Putnam, Connecticut, Congregational Church records note that Jonathan Smith d. in Sept. 1811 and three children d. in 1803.

- IX RACHEL<sup>6</sup> SMITH, b. 30 July 1763 in Glocester; d. 31 May 1845 in Pennsylvania; m. 6 Jan. 1788 Darius Bixby of Amos and Elizabeth (Sabin) Bixby, b. 4 Sept. 1761 in Thompson and d. 18 Sept. 1834 in Pennsylvania. The Bixby genealogy records that Darius settled first in western Vermont but soon after moved to Rush, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, when it was still a wilderness.<sup>471</sup>

CHILDREN OF RACHEL AND DARIUS BIXBY  
listed in the Bixby genealogy:

- 1 NEOMI Bixby, b. 18 Sept. 1788 at Killingly, Connecticut; m. (1) Zyrar Bryan; (2) Horace Birchard.
  - 2 DARIUS Bixby, Jr., b. 25 Feb. 1792, m. Lodema Mott.
  - 3 BETSEY Bixby, b. 1794, d. 1 Nov. 1846, age 52, unmarried.
  - 4 ASA Bixby, b. 1796 in Vermont, m. Almena West.
  - 5 RICHARD Bixby, b. 14 March 1800, m. Mary Birge.
  - 6 AMOS Bixby, b. 28 July 1803, perhaps at Wardsboro, Vermont; m. (1) Fannie Birchard; (2) Lydia G. Sheffield Smith, b. 1808, d. 12 Feb. 1837 at 29. Amos was a Baptist minister. There was no issue.
- X ANNE<sup>6</sup> SMITH, b. 30 June 1766 in Glocester.
- 103 XI DEXTER<sup>6</sup> SMITH, b. 11 July 1768. He was living at the time his brother William made his will, but no further reference to him has been found.

50 CAPT. JOHN<sup>5</sup> SMITH (*Solomon*,<sup>4</sup> *Benjamin*,<sup>3</sup> *John*,<sup>2</sup> *John*<sup>1</sup>), b. 20 Jan. 1729/30 in Glocester;<sup>472</sup> d. in Burrillville 7 May 1826 in 99th year (gravestone); m. Sarah Arnold, probably the Sarah, daughter of Stephen, Jr., and Hannah (Case) Arnold, b. in Warwick, Rhode Island, 18 Nov. 1733.<sup>473</sup> She d. in Burrillville 19 June 1812 in her 80th year (gravestone).

*The Rhode Island American* death notice for Capt. John said that he was a member of the General Assembly during the Revolution.

<sup>471</sup>Willard Goldthwaite Bixby, *Descendants of Joseph Bixby* (New York, 1919), p. 293.

<sup>472</sup>Arnold, *op. cit.*, Glocester Births, 3:60.

<sup>473</sup>*Ibid.*, Warwick Births, 1:139.



The *Providence Phenix* death notice for John Smith, Esq., stated that he was a member of the Baptist church for more than 70 years, served in the Revolution, and was at one time a state senator. Sarah's death notice stated that she had lived with her husband for 64 years and 5 months and left a posterity of 166 persons, 134 of whom were living in 1812.

Captain John lived in the part of Glocester which became Burrillville, in the southeastern part of the town near Mapleville. He and his wife are buried in the Smith family cemetery in the woods of Tarkiln on what was in later years known as the Jason Olney farm.

Solomon<sup>4</sup> Smith deeded to his son John one half of his homestead farm or one half of 216 acres on 17 April 1750.<sup>474</sup>

The will of Capt. John, made 29 Nov. 1804 and probated in Burrillville 28 June 1828, mentions his wife, his son Arnold and Arnold's two eldest sons Solomon and Daniel; son Stephen, son Israel, and son Silas; grandson Jesse Smith "son of my son Nicholas," and daughters Lydia, Anna, Mary, and Zilpha. His son Simeon, named executor, was left the residue of the estate on condition that he pay debts and legacies.

#### CHILDREN OF CAPT. JOHN<sup>5</sup> AND SARAH (ARNOLD) SMITH:

- 104 I ARNOLD<sup>6</sup> SMITH, b. in Glocester 22 Feb. 1750; m. (1) 1 Jan. 1773 Lydia Mathewson,<sup>475</sup> probably the daughter of Daniel and Lydia (Montague) Mathewson. Lydia obtained a divorce from Arnold in Rhode Island Supreme Court in March 1790. Possibly she was the Lydia Smith buried on the old Darling Smith farm in Burrillville on 2 Aug. 1829 in her 80th year. Arnold m. (2) 24 April 1791 Cynthia Ballou, b. 7 Nov. 1758,<sup>476</sup> daughter of Obediah and Martha Ballou.

On 2 March 1796 Arnold Smith of Glocester for one dollar quitclaimed to his son-in-law Eber Smith of Glocester and daughter Amey about 80 acres, a quarter interest in property set off to his first wife, Lydia Mathewson.<sup>477</sup> Arnold quitclaimed to John Wood, Jr., and wife Robe (daughter of Arnold) on 24 Oct. 1795 one quarter right in the property set off to Arnold's first wife, Lydia.<sup>478</sup> Arnold also appeared 1 Dec. 1799 to acknowledge a deed giving his son Solomon Smith of Glocester an undivided interest

<sup>474</sup>Glocester Deeds, 3:198.

<sup>475</sup>Arnold, *op. cit.*, Glocester Births, 3:34.

<sup>476</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>477</sup>Glocester Deeds, 3:248.

<sup>478</sup>*Ibid.*, 13:361.

in the property set off to his first wife Lydia.<sup>479</sup> No mention is made of sharing the property with Arnold's son Daniel, mentioned in the will of Capt. John Smith.

Probably after disposing of property to his children by his first wife, Arnold set off for New York State and thus disappeared from Glocester records. A note in the *Boston Transcript* genealogical page of 12 May 1919 asking for information on the background of Arnold, sheds light on his travels. It mentioned his first marriage to Lydia Mathewson and second to Cynthia Ballou and then states: "He was hired by John Brown (a relative by marriage) to survey the purchase of Brown, known for many years as 'Brown's Tract,' in the Adirondack wilderness. After the failure of Brown, Smith settled in Oneida County, where his second wife died 24 Feb. 1808. Later he lived in Wayne County, New York, where he married, third, widow Betsey Harris, mother of Bishop Harris of the Mormon church, whose money paid for the printing of the first Mormon Bible."

Arnold was known as Carpenter Arnold to distinguish him from other Arnold Smiths of the period. He was active in setting up a Baptist church in Glocester.

#### CHILDREN OF ARNOLD<sup>6</sup> AND LYDIA (MATHEWSON) SMITH:

- 1 SOLOMON<sup>7</sup> SMITH, d. 16 May 1863 at 84 years, 6 months, 20 days (gravestone on Jason Olney farm); m. in Burrillville 4 Jan. 1807 Maria Steere of Simeon,<sup>480</sup> who d. 24 July 1860 at 70 years and 13 days and is buried beside her husband. Three children of Solomon and Maria are recorded in Burrillville births:<sup>481</sup> SERIL, b. 31 Aug. 1807; HARRIET, b. 28 June 1809; and ALICE WHITE SMITH, b. 4 Sept. 1816. Seril d. 8 Aug. 1824, Harriet on 12 April 1828, and another daughter, RHODA J. SMITH, d. 26 Nov. 1858 at 33 years, 4 months and 13 days. Seril, Harriet and Rhoda are buried beside their parents.
- 2 DANIEL<sup>7</sup> SMITH was mentioned as one of the elder sons of Arnold in the will of his grandfather Capt. John Smith, but no further record identifying him has been found, and he is not buried in the Smith lot on the Jason Olney farm.

<sup>479</sup>*Ibid.*, 14:280.

<sup>480</sup>Arnold, *op. cit.*, Burrillville Births, 3:12.

<sup>481</sup>*Ibid.*, 3:21.



- 3 AMEY<sup>7</sup> SMITH, m. 19 April 1795 Eber<sup>7</sup> Smith, son of John<sup>6</sup> and Sarah Smith<sup>482</sup> (see *Rhode Island History*, July 1963, p. 88). Both are buried on the old Smith homestead in Glocester, later known as the Darling Smith farm, with the gravestone for Amey recording her death 14 Dec. 1819 at 44 and that of Eber 26 May 1844 at 71.
- 4 ROBE<sup>7</sup> SMITH, b. 1 Nov. 1774, d. 20 April 1849, m. Capt. John Wood of John and Sarah (McDonald) Wood who d. 9 Sept. 1827. Capt. John kept a store and tavern and also had a blacksmith shop in Burrillville. Their children were: (1) CHARLOTTE Wood, b. 19 Jan. 1795; d. 13 Oct. 1845; m. William Albee of Burrillville; (2) OTIS Wood, b. 5 May 1796; m. Celia Sayles and resided in Harrisville, Rhode Island; (3) FENNER Wood, b. 1 Jan. 1798; d. 11 Feb. 1878; m. (1) Sarah Arnold and (2) Sarah Sayles; (4) SMITH Wood, b. 7 Oct. 1799; d. 26 May 1876; m. Nancy Olney; (5) AMEY Wood, b. 24 March 1803; d. 7 March 1863; m. John Olney; (6) LAURA Wood, b. 23 Dec. 1804; m. Hardin Sayles, a manufacturer of Pascoag, Rhode Island; (7) MARIA Wood, b. 13 Feb. 1809; d. 2 April 1864; m. Capt. Syria Sherman, a Burrillville stone mason; (8) MARANA Wood, b. 21 Oct. 1816; m. William Wilcox and resided in Burrillville, where she died.<sup>483</sup>
- 105 II STEPHEN<sup>6</sup> SMITH, b. 3 Dec. 1751 in Glocester, d. in Glocester 22 Oct. 1836, m. 21 April 1772 Abigail Phetteplace of Samuel and Mercy (Phetteplace) Phetteplace, who was b. 24 June 1752.<sup>484</sup>

Stephen was a pensioner for his Revolutionary War service and was orderly sergeant for six months under Col. Chad Brown.<sup>485</sup>

THE CHILDREN OF STEPHEN AND ABIGAIL recorded in Glocester births include:

- 1 RACHEL SMITH, b. 24 Jan. 1773.
- 2 SAMUEL SMITH, b. 14 April 1778.
- 3 MOWRY SMITH, b. 5 Feb. 1781.
- 4 JOHN SMITH, b. 17 Feb. 1787.<sup>486</sup>

<sup>482</sup>Arnold, *op. cit.*, Glocester Births, 3:35.

<sup>483</sup>*Representative Men and Old Families of Rhode Island*, 3:1430.

<sup>484</sup>Arnold, *op. cit.*, Glocester Marriages, 3:34.

<sup>485</sup>Revolutionary War Pension Record, W13908, National Archives.

<sup>486</sup>Arnold, *op. cit.*, Glocester Births, 3:62.

[to be continued]

## BOOK REVIEW

*The Transformation of Rhode Island, 1790-1860*, by Peter J. Coleman. (Providence, Brown University Press, 1963) 314 pp. \$9.00.

I must begin by confessing that my own immersion in the fascinatingly paradoxical history of Rhode Island began but a few months ago, and that since then I have done a lot of raking of the topsoil, but hardly any vertical digging. Perforce, therefore, I view Coleman's book from a perspective that is superficial as well as sociological — a distinction which my historian colleagues will probably suggest is redundant. Having thus hedged on my qualifications for writing this, I will say that Coleman's work strikes me as a superb study in economic history. It seems, at the very least, a masterful historiographic *tour de force* in which an exceedingly large number and variety of primary and secondary sources — several of them quite recondite — are blended conscientiously and imaginatively.

With a wealth of meticulous and yet absorbing detail, Coleman recounts the fruits of that remarkable propensity for "pragmatic opportunism" which enabled a relatively small coterie of late eighteenth-early nineteenth century Rhode Island entrepreneurs to initiate and then to consolidate a major shift in the state's economy from maritime to industrial. In the process of this recounting, he reveals a commendable grasp and lively appreciation of entrepreneurial manipulations and managerial methods characteristic of both the mercantile and the manufacturing periods. His description and analysis cover an intriguing series of interrelated economic developments, culminating in the establishment and prodigious growth of the cotton and other textile and textile-related industries, and, as well, the exciting ventures — some of them abortive — in turnpikes, canals, railroads, banks, and insurance companies. That this dramatic transformation from sea- to land-based enterprises was characterized by a wonderfully enigmatic admixture of daring and conservatism, and that it more than infrequently involved the shrewd ability to wed profit with patriotism or even, if need be, to subordinate conscience to the Main Chance, makes the story the more fascinating. And that, by the second half of the nineteenth century, the fruits of that transformation had already begun to turn bitter, gives the story the force of a morality tale, though not, I should add, the grandeur of a tragedy.

The bulk of this study is so solid an accomplishment that I am willing to forgive Coleman's excess of ambition in his next-to-last chapter in which he endeavors to explore the effects of the economic revolution on the state's social and political life. Although this chapter does include a perceptive analysis of the Dorr Rebellion, it has, over-all, a rather potpourri quality, the trouble here being simply that Coleman tacks on to an already sufficiently comprehensive work too large an additional dimension, and treats it in too cursory a fashion.

My summary judgment of this book, however, is decidedly affirmative. It well reveals its author's respect for historical detail, his sensitivity to historical complexity, and, at the same time, his willingness to seek and his ability to discern larger patterns, meanings, and relevances. Without these, historical scholarship — however admirably conscientious in the revelation of the particular — can amount to little more than a kind of antiquarian bookkeeping.

Brown University

ROBERT O. SCHULZE



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## LECTURES

|                   |  |           |
|-------------------|--|-----------|
| January 19, 1964  | Sunday   | 3:30 p.m. |
|                   | <i>What of the Future</i><br>FREDERICK L. RATH, JR.                            |           |
| February 16, 1964 | Sunday   | 3:30 p.m. |
|                   | <i>Some Brown Men in the Civil War</i><br>ROBERT GEORGE                        |           |
| March 15, 1964    | Sunday   | 3:30 p.m. |
|                   | <i>A Rhode Islander in Chile —<br/>Samuel Ward Greene</i><br>ALAN S. TRUEBLOOD |           |