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Rhode Island Historical Society

Gift of John P. Dexter

SILVER TANKARD

Made by Samuel Vernon of Newport, Rhode Island, 1683-1737

[see inside front cover]

ISSUED QUARTERLY AT PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

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SILVER TANKARD

[reproduced on front cover]

The tankard pictured on the front cover was made by Samuel Vernon ca. 1705. It has a cylindrical body flaring to the base, with an undulating band border; stepped lid surmounted by a turned finial; scroll thumbpiece; hollow S-shaped handle with a shield-shaped tip; elongated oval drop on body; maker's mark S.V. above a fleur-de-lis within a heart shaped device on the body near the rim and on the cover; later inscriptions, S.M.D. to H.H.D., on the body; H shaded block letters on the handle.

The tankard has come down through the Dexter family from Sarah Mumford, the second wife of Edward Dexter, and has been presented to the Society by Mr. John P. Dexter of San Diego, California.

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JOHN SMIBERT AND ROBERT FEKE IN NEWPORT

by HENRY WILDER FOOTE*

WHEN JOHN SMIBERT landed at Newport on January 25, 1729, in the company of Dean George Berkeley, he was in his forty-first year. He had been born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on March 24, 1688, the son of a man who kept a dye-shop. He had been apprenticed to a plasterer and painter, and when his apprenticeship ended, presumably when he was 21, he set out for London with the intention of becoming a professional artist. There he found employment in decorating carriages, went on to making copies of pictures, and had a brief period of instruction in the short-lived little academy which was opened in 1716. He returned to Edinburgh in 1717, when he painted his earliest portraits, and later in that year set out for Italy, the goal of all aspiring artists in northern Europe. He remained in Italy for three years, studying and copying famous pictures in Florence, Rome, and Naples. In Italy he met George Berkeley, and probably painted the earliest portrait of him. He returned to England in 1720, revisited Edinburgh, and then settled down in London where in the course of the next eight years he attained a considerable degree of recognition as one of the rising younger portrait painters of the period.

Meanwhile George Berkeley, now Dean of Derry, had developed his romantic plan of emigrating to Bermuda to establish there a college for the conversion of the "American savages." Berkeley renewed his acquaintance with Smibert and invited him to take part in the enterprise as professor of art and architecture, with the result that Smibert sailed from England with Berkeley's party in September, 1728.

*Address given at the Rhode Island Historical Society, Nov. 30, 1949.

When he landed at Newport the following January, Smibert was unquestionably the best-trained European artist who had ever reached the American colonies. There are, it is true, many portraits which antedate his coming, painted in New England, New York, and Virginia, most of them by unidentified provincial limners, though Gustavus Hesselius and John Watson had at least some pretensions to academic training. None of them, however, could compare with Smibert in skill or reputation.

Smibert lingered in Newport about eight months after his arrival, except for a brief visit to Boston in April to size up the opportunities which that place might offer a painter. While in Newport he painted a number of portraits: another of George Berkeley, those of Rev. and Mrs. McSparran, Rev. Samuel Johnson, Henry Collins, the pair called Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Wanton, owned by the Rhode Island Historical Society, and others. But by far the most important was that known as *The Bermuda Group*, which remains his masterpiece. This picture, now at Yale, portrays eight persons, comprising Dean Berkeley and his entourage. It is signed and dated *Newport, 1729*. It must have been painted in the summer and autumn of that year, because it includes Berkeley's infant son, Henry, who had been born the preceding May; and Dr. Thomas Moffatt, Smibert's nephew, who had missed Berkeley's ship on account of illness and had reached Newport later. Smibert, of course, included himself in the group, and it is the only authentic picture we have of him.

The opportunities for portrait painting in Newport being exhausted and there being no immediate prospect of the establishment of the college at Bermuda, Smibert removed (probably early in November, 1729) to Boston, which then offered the best field for an artist. Here he found work at once, and in March, 1730, gave his first exhibition of the copies of European works which he had brought with him, as well as of his just finished canvases. No other exhibition of Smibert's work has ever been held until the one which has just been concluded at the Yale Gallery of Art.

Smibert soon married in Boston and lived there until his death in 1751, painting many portraits and running a "colour shop," or art center, with the aid of another nephew, John Moffatt, who joined him probably about 1740. Throughout his life, and for some thirty

years thereafter, his shop and studio remained the nearest approach to a British academy of art to be found in the colonies.

It is interesting to surmise what his relations were with Robert Feke, the earliest American born artist to attain excellence, who was about twenty years his junior. Feke was born between 1706 and 1710 at Oyster Bay, Long Island, a community which had close commercial and social relations with Newport and its vicinity, from which several families had migrated to Long Island. An aunt of Feke's had married in Newport in 1727, and when he himself married there in 1742 he was described as "of Newport." In the records of the marriages of his daughters in 1767 he is described as "mariner, deceased," and there is a tradition that on one of his voyages he was captured and held as a prisoner in Spain, where he did some painting. Aside from a juvenile portrait of his little niece, probably painted about 1730, and the *Early Self-Portrait*, there are no portraits by him which we can date earlier than about 1740. The fact is that Feke is an elusive figure whose principal work as a painter was done in the decade 1740-50, after which he disappeared, we know not exactly when or how. Fortunately we do have a vivid pen-picture of him which precisely describes the man shown in his two self-portraits, written by Dr. Alexander Hamilton, a Scottish physician whose account of his journey from Maryland to New England and return in 1744 has recently been reprinted under the title of *Gentleman's Progress*, edited by Carl Bridenbaugh. Hamilton wrote, July 16, 1744: "... in the afternoon Dr. Moffatt, an old acquaintance & schoolfellow of mine, led me a course through the town. He carried me to one Feake, a painter, the most extraordinary genius ever I knew, for he does pictures tolerably well by the force of genius, having never had any teaching. . . . This man had exactly the phiz of a painter, having a long pale face, sharp nose, large eyes,—with which he looked upon you steadfastly—long curled black hair, a delicate white hand, and long fingers."

In view of the importance of Newport as a shipping center and his family connections there, I think we may assume that Feke came thither in very early manhood. There is a record that he was in Oyster Bay in the winter of 1730-31, when he was at least twenty-one years old, and no record that he was there at a later date. There is nothing, however, to preclude the possibility that he visited Newport before

that time. That possibility or probability may account for the striking resemblance of Feke's *Early Self-Portrait* to Smibert's representation of himself in *The Bermuda Group*, a resemblance noted many years ago. Mr. T. J. Flexner in his *First Flowers of our Wilderness* has a highly fanciful theory to account for it. He pictures Feke as a seafaring man who turned up in 1741 in Smibert's Boston studio, saw *The Bermuda Group*, was moved to paint a picture of himself closely following Smibert's, and somehow obtained a commission to paint the group portrait of Isaac Royall and his Family, which he deliberately patterned on *The Bermuda Group*. Now, there is no question either as to the similarity of the self-portraits of the two men, or that Feke in the *Royall Family* followed Smibert's pattern in *The Bermuda Group*. But Feke's *Early Self-Portrait* cannot have been painted as late as 1741, for it shows a youth in his early twenties, at least twenty years younger than the man shown in his *Late Self-Portrait** of about 1750; and it is clearly the work of a beginner rather than of an artist capable of painting the *Royall Family*.

I believe that Feke was probably in Newport in 1729, when Smibert was there. As a youth who aspired to be an artist, he would naturally have sought out the distinguished painter who had just come from London, and, seeing Smibert's picture of himself, would have been inspired to paint his own picture in a similar pose, with hints from Smibert. When, twelve years later, he found himself in Boston, it would have been quite natural for him to have presented himself again to Smibert as the young man whom he had encouraged and who could now report some travels in Europe, and that he had already painted portraits in Philadelphia. Since it is not to be imagined that Isaac Royall would have employed an unknown "marriner" to paint himself and family it seems most probable that Smibert, who was just recovering from a dangerous illness, introduced Feke to him, and allowed him to imitate *The Bermuda Group* rather freely. Smibert, as far as Feke was concerned, was still the distinguished older artist, to whom he looked up. Before Feke disappeared, nine years later, he was producing portraits which rivaled in skill and charm the best of Smibert's work, but I think it highly probable that Smibert's helping hand was first extended to him in Newport in 1729.

*Owned by the Rhode Island Historical Society.

GODFREY MALBONE'S ARMORIAL SILVER

by RICHARD LeBARON BOWEN*

WHILE it is well-known that Col. Godfrey Malbone of Newport, Rhode Island, made a fortune in the West Indies trade and in privateering during King George's War (1739-1748) and that at the height of his career he was probably the richest man in Newport, it is not generally known—and to the writer's knowledge it has never appeared in print—that in 1742 he had a large chest of armorial silver made for him in London, engraved with the impaled coats-of-arms of Malbone and Scott, and that today some twenty or twenty-five pieces of this silver are in existence in the hands of his widely scattered descendants.

Originally, the writer's interest in Colonel Malbone centered in his armorial silver and was entirely heraldic. Because little has been written about him, it was necessary to do considerable research which soon revealed such a wealth of new material on this extraordinary man—material enough for a fascinating historical novel—that the writer soon found himself involved in a full-size history of the family.

The Malbone, Scott, and Brinley families were related by marriage and closely associated in business, as shown by copies of transcripts, made nearly one hundred years ago, of family letters, papers, and documents called the Malbone Papers.¹ As the writer's uncompleted history of the Malbone family will probably never be published, a brief notice of Colonel Malbone's magnificent town and country places (for which he acquired armorial silver), together with some important family letters, are included in the following pages as important new source material for students of the social history of this period.

Col. Godfrey² Malbone, son of Peter Malbone who is said to have come from the British West Indies, was born in Princess Anne County, Virginia, 18 Jan. 1695/6. As a young man he came to Newport, Rhode Island, where in 1719 he married Catherine⁴ Scott, the great-granddaughter of Richard¹ Scott, of Providence, Rhode Island. Her

*President of the Rhode Island Historical Society.

¹In 1857 Mary C. Low, a sister of Robert Mackay, spent the summer in Newport, much of the time with Mrs. William (Brinley) Littlefield and other members of the Brinley family. Interested in the Malbone family, she copied many old Malbone, Brinley, and some Scott letters, papers and documents into three small books—E, 45 pp.; F, 18 pp.; and the third, no title, 88 pp., making a total of 151 typewritten pages entitled Malbone Papers. The writer is indebted to Mr. Charles F. Mills of Milton, Mass., for the extended loan of his copy of these valuable documents. A microfilm of the Malbone Papers is in the Rhode Island Historical Society.

mother was Elizabeth² Wanton, daughter of Edward¹ and Elizabeth Wanton, sister of William and Col. John Wanton, and also aunt of Gideon and Joseph Wanton, all Governors of Rhode Island.

The study of Colonel Malbone reveals an outstanding Newport leader—a plain visaged, determined, and rather arrogant, but at the same time, a public-spirited man; a successful and very rich merchant—who, when the war opened, was among the first to arm and convert his sailing craft into privateers which brought in many valuable prizes. He made a fortune in the “War of Jenkins’ Ear,”² which broke out between England and Spain in 1739, but what is not generally known is that he lost a fortune shortly after that war merged, in 1744, with the Anglo-French struggle known as King George’s War. He was one of the founders of Trinity Church at Newport and lies buried under his pew in the church.

Among the Malbone Papers is an unexecuted will made by Colonel Malbone, in February, 1741, which indicates the size of his estate, exclusive of his ships and other sailing craft, at the height of his prosperity. In his will he makes bequests to his wife Catherine, sons Godfrey, Thomas, and John, and daughters Elizabeth, Aliph, Mary, and Catherine, and to his sister Aliph Banister, in Virginia.

The bequests total £70,100 in cash; 27 negro slaves, plus an unspecified number at New Shoreham and Pomfret, Conn.; a stone house on a farm purchased of Col. William Coddington (probably part of his later enlarged Portsmouth estate); “the Mansion [town] House that I now dwell in;” a farm in Newport; two wharves in Newport, one with buildings on property extending from Thames Street to the salt water, all buildings, etc., and the other with a still house; lands at Prudence Island, Warwick, New Shoreham, and Pomfret, Conn. (with all negroes and stock in two latter places); farms in Jamestown, Westerly, and Glocester; lands in Newport, Rochester (Province of Massachusetts Bay), and in New London and Norwich, Conn.

Peterson,³ writing in 1853, said that Colonel Malbone’s ancient brick town-house, then standing in Newport, was a splendid habitation of imposing appearance with its portico, double flight of lofty

²Generally known in America as King George’s War and in Europe as the war of the Austrian Succession, it began in June, 1739, when King George authorized the issuance of letters of marque and reprisal against Spain. From the fact that the Spaniards, among other atrocities, had cut off the ear of one Captain Jenkins, the early part of the war was called the “War of Jenkins’ Ear.”

³Edward Peterson, *History of Rhode Island* (New York, 1853), pp. 132-135.

steps, and its heavy and highly ornamental iron gate and railings. On the gate posts were stone pineapples, and the iron railing around the portico bore the initials “G.M.” in the centre. The interior, with its gilded cornices, panel work, and its mantels of rich marble, presented many vestiges of its former splendor. A spacious hall, with a noble flight of circular stairs reaching to the attic, displayed the fine taste of its owner.

On 29 April 1742 Colonel Malbone purchased a farm⁴ of 366 acres with buildings, improvements, etc., at Jamestown, Rhode Island, from Col. Francis Brinley of Newport for £10,248. This purchase was apparently in addition to a farm at Coddington Point, which he had previously purchased from Colonel William Coddington,⁵ and which was the site of his magnificent country seat.

Dr. Alexander Hamilton, in the course of his three months’ travels⁶ in 1744—from Annapolis, Maryland, to York, Maine, and return—spent some time at Newport, Rhode Island, where he visited Colonel Malbone’s palatial country estate at Portsmouth and records in his diary the only contemporary description we have of the magnificent Malbone mansion, as follows:

Tuesday, July 17th [1744] . . . I went with the Doctor [Dr. Thomas Moffatt] att 10 a’clock to see a house about half a mile out of town, built lately by one Captain Mallbone,⁷ a substantiall trader there. It is the largest and most magnificent dwelling house I have seen in America. It is built intirely with hewn stone of a reddish colour; the sides of the windows and corner stones of the house being painted like white marble. It is three storys high, and the rooms are spacious and magnificent. There is a large lanthern or cupola on the roof, which is covered with sheet lead. The whole stair case, which is very spacious and large, is done with mahogany wood. This house makes a grand show att a distance but is not extraordinary for the architecture, being a clumsy Dutch modell. Round it are pritty gardens and terrasses with canals and basons for water, from whence you have a delightfull view of the town and harbour of Newport with the shipping lying there.

Sunday, August 19. I called upon Dr. Moffat in the morning and went

⁴John O. Austin, *The Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island* (Albany, 1887) p. 257.

⁵In Colonel Malbone’s unrecorded will of February, 1741, he mentions his “stone house on farm purchased from Colonel William Coddington.”

⁶Carl Bridenbaugh, ed. *Gentleman’s Progress, the Itinerarium of Dr. Alexander Hamilton, 1774* (Chapel Hill, N. C., 1948), pp. 103, 150, 151, 153.

⁷Godfrey Malbone had been a sea captain in his younger days. He received his title of colonel when in March, 1744/5 he was authorized by the legislature to command and lead 500 soldiers in the expedition against the French settlements at Cape Breton.

with him to a windmill⁸ near the town to look out for vessels but could spy none. The mill was a going and the miller in it grinding of corn, which is an instance of their not being so observant of Sunday here as in the other parts of New England. . . . We viewed Mr. Malbone's house and gardens and as we returned home met Malbone himself with whom we had some talk about news.

Tuesday, August 21. . . . I walked out betwixt 12 and one with Dr. Moffat an[d] viewed Malbone's house and gardens. We went to the lantern or cupola att top from which we had a pritty view of the town of Newport and of the sea towards Block Island, and behind the house, of a pleasant mount gradually ascending to a great height from which we can have a view of almost the whole island.

On 7 June 1766 Colonel Malbone entertained a large family party at dinner on the occasion of the christening of a granddaughter, a daughter of his son-in-law, Dr. William Hunter, of Newport. While the dinner was in progress, the woodwork of the kitchen fireplace chimney caught fire, kindled the roof, and the house burned to the ground.⁹ Peterson, writing sixty-eight years after the fire—at a time when there were persons living who had seen the house in all its glory—adds considerable additional detail to Dr. Hamilton's description. He says that

[the mansion was built of] Connecticut stone. It was two stories [probably two and one half] high, with a double-pitched room [roof], dormer windows, with a cupola, which commanded an extensive view of the ocean, and Narragansett Bay. In architectural style, it is said to have resembled the State House [Colony House]. The fifteen steps leading to the hall were spacious, and standing as the building did on elevated ground, gave to it an imposing appearance. The interior is said to have been equally as grand. The doors were of mahogany, as well as the elegant finished circular stair-way, which led to the attic. An aged gentleman, of Newport, remarked to the author, "that the cost of the stair-way alone, he

⁸This was undoubtedly the now famous Newport stone mill. Although Dr. Hamilton was a keen observer of anything unusual, he was not sufficiently impressed with this windmill even to mention that it was built of stone; this would seem to indicate that stone windmills were not uncommon at this period. Today (1949), more than two hundred years after he stood at the mill and looked out to sea for vessels, archeologists recently were busily engaged in digging trenches around its base in an effort to prove whether it was originally a stone windmill or a *Norse Church*. The final archeological verdict is that the structure is a stone windmill.

When Benedict² Arnold died in 1678 he left certain land with mansion house, "stone built wind mill," etc., to his wife Damaris for life. On her death the property was to be divided between his two daughters, Godsgift and Frelove. The latter m. William Pelham in 1682. [Austin, *Gen. Dict. R. I.*, pp. 244, 245.] They had two daughters, one of whom m. John Banister, a Newport merchant. In 1756 a look-out house was built on top of the stone mill, which then belonged to John Banister, Esq. [Peterson, *op. cit.*, p. 167.]

⁹Newport Historical Society *Bulletin*, 1921, no. 38, p. 21.

had heard his father say, was equal to the expense of building the Brenton House," now owned and occupied by Simmons S. Coe, Esq., in Thames-street. The estimated expense of this palace,¹⁰ . . . was one hundred thousand dollars.

The farm consisted of upwards of six hundred acres, extending north to Coddington's Cove. The garden, which lay direct in front of the mansion, with natural embankments, embracing as it did ten acres, was enchantingly laid out, with graveled walks, and highly ornamented with box, fruits of the rarest and choicest kinds, flowers, and shrubbery of every description. Three artificial ponds, with the silver fish sporting in the water, gave to the place the most romantic appearance.

The magazine *Antiques*, February, 1933, XXIII, pages 43 and 44, published an article by E. Alfred Jones, the English student and critic of old silver, entitled "An Anglo-American Silver Mug," illustrated with a photograph of a silver half-pint mug owned by the Reverend Malbone Hunter Birckhead of Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, a great-great-grandson of Col. Godfrey² Malbone, the Newport merchant, who married in 1719 Catherine⁴ Scott, the great-granddaughter of Richard¹ Scott of Providence, Rhode Island.

The mug is engraved with an impaled coat-of-arms, *or two bendlets componé gules and ermine* for MALBONE, impaling *argent on a fess between three catherine wheels as many lambs passant* for SCOTT. Under the arms is engraved "Godfrey Malbone, 1742." Mr. Jones states, "The arms of Malbone were granted, in 1683, to George Malbone, of Bradley, in the county of Chester . . ."

Without citing authority for the statement, he also says that the mug belonged to Godfrey Malbone, Jr., the son of Godfrey Malbone of Newport, who matriculated at Queen's College, Oxford, 22 June 1742, and on 15 December 1743 was admitted to Lincoln's Inn, but was apparently not called to the English bar; that the mug was engraved with the arms of the owner—*Godfrey Malbone* and the date 1742; and that it was his companion during student days at Oxford University; that besides his silver mug, there survives a pair of silver candlesticks of the same date, likewise engraved with the Malbone arms.

¹⁰The name of the architect of Colonel Malbone's stone mansion is not known to the writer. Richard Munday was the skilled master-builder in Newport at this period. He was the architect for Trinity Church, completed in 1726, and the Town House, or Colony House as it was called, 1739-1741, which at the time of building was one of the handsomest and finest public buildings in the English colonies. There was so much similarity between the Colony House and Colonel Malbone's stone mansion that it would seem that Munday may have drawn the plans for both.

That the Scott family was armigerous had been known for many years, but that Col. Godfrey Malbone of Newport claimed and was using a coat-of-arms was unknown to genealogists prior to the publication of the picture of the silver mug with the engraved Malbone arms impaling Scott. This was also evidence of a new coat-of-arms used in the English Colony of Rhode Island in 1742.

The Rhode Island Historical Society *Collections*, July, 1933, XXVI, no. 3, pages 98-100, under the title "Heraldic Notes," reproduced the picture of the Malbone silver mug published in *Antiques*, February, 1933, and said that the arms of Scott, as engraved on the silver mug, are the same as those of Thomas Scott of Great Barr, in Staffordshire, as illustrated on page 299 (here shown) of the 1724 edition (also in edition of 1679 of Guillim's *Display of Heraldry*). In the text these arms are given as *argent on a fess gules, cottised azure, three lambs of the first between as many catherine-wheels sable*, but in the illustration the cottises are omitted.



Dr. Harold Bowditch suggested that the engraver may have merely turned to Guillim for a Scott coat, found that of Scott of Great Barr, Staffordshire, and then, overlooking the cottises in the blazon, copied the Guillim wood cut.

The discovery of this 1742 Godfrey Malbone mug with the impaled Scott arms in the possession of a descendant in the fourth generation of the emigrant Richard¹ Scott, the earliest and only known record at that time of the Scott family having used arms in America, came as a distinct shock to genealogists working on the Scott Pedigree, for instead of being the arms of the Kentish family as shown on the ancient parchment Scott Pedigree Roll extant in this country, the arms were those of another Scott family in England settled some two hundred miles northwest in Staffordshire. The use of these Staffordshire Scott arms on this silver mug made no sense to genealogists, for Godfrey Malbone married into the Richard¹ Scott family, which was known to have originated in Glemsford, co. Suffolk, whose arms on the extant parchment Pedigree Roll, the arms (here shown) of the Kentish family of Scott's Hall, are *argent three catherine wheels sable, a border engrailed gules*.



In an article in the Rhode Island Historical Society *Collections*, July, 1939, XXXII, no. 3, pages 87-96, entitled "The Arms of Richard Scott," the writer announced his discovery of a Scott seal used in 1712, and discussed the two previous articles on the Godfrey Malbone 1742 armorial silver mug which appeared in *Antiques*, February, 1933, and the Society's *Collections*, July, 1933. In this article is a pedigree chart showing the origin of the Scott family in England.

In the spring of 1939, among the documents in the library of the late Frederick S. Peck at Barrington, R. I., a Richard Scott descendant in the tenth generation, the writer found the original deed given by John³ Scott, grandson of Richard¹ Scott, dated 20 July 1712, signed by John³ and his wife Elizabeth Wanton, and sealed with red sealing wax.¹¹ On examination of these wax seals he discovered that the seal of John was the conventional knurl design, while the seal of his wife Elizabeth was an armorial seal of *three catherine wheels, a border engrailed*, the same heraldic charges as on the arms of Scott of Scott's Hall, co. Kent. Over the helme is a crest—a griffin's head erased. The arms show no tinctures. The deed conveyed a mansion house and 113 acres of land in Providence to Charles Dyre of Dartmouth, Mass., for £600. The deed is recorded in *Providence Deeds*, Book 2, pp. 347-8.

This is the earliest known evidence that the American family of Richard Scott claimed connection with the Scott family of county Kent, England, and it is also the discovery of a new coat-of-arms used in the English Colony of Rhode Island in 1712.

Now that we know that in 1712 John³ Scott owned a Scott seal,¹¹ thirty years before his son-in-law's silver mug was engraved in 1742 with an entirely different Scott coat-of-arms, we realize that Dr. Harold Bowditch was right when he said in 1933 that the engraver did not know the Scott coat and simply copied the only one in Guillim's *Display of Heraldry*. There can be little doubt that it was copied out of this heraldry book, for the artist in making his drawing did not read the blazon correctly, and his incorrect drawing appears on the Malbone silver mug. (See illustration.) Incidentally, Guillim shows no Malbone arms.

The 1742 date on the silver mug, coinciding as it did with the 1742 purchase¹² by Colonel Malbone for £10,248 of Francis Brinley's farm

¹¹The writer presented the Rhode Island Historical Society a photostat of the seals and signatures now filed in the Society's R.I.H.S.M., XI, p. 114.

¹²Austin, *op. cit.*, p. 257.



Col. Godfrey Malbone's armorial silver half-pint mug owned (1933) by Reverend Malbone Hunter Birkhead, of Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, a great-great-grandson of Colonel Malbone.

Courtesy of Antiques

Col. Godfrey Malbone's armorial silver half-pint mug owned (1944) by Maj. W. Huntington Byington, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, a great-great-grandson of Colonel Malbone.

This mug was made in 1742 by Robert Abercrombie, plate worker of St. Martin's-le-Grand, London. It has the impaled arms of *Malbone* and *Scott* and is an exact duplicate of the one owned by the Reverend Malbone Hunter Birkhead, of Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, except that it lacks the engraved line "Godfrey Malbone, 1742."

Courtesy of Maj. W. Huntington Byington



at Jamestown, Rhode Island, seems significant. As an explanation for engraving the wrong Scott coat-of-arms on this mug, the writer suggested that perhaps Colonel Malbone's merchant friends¹³ in Newport took the occasion to present him with an engraved heraldic mug, in which case it might well have been kept a secret from both Colonel Malbone and his wife, which would account for the use of the wrong Scott coat-of-arms. We now know that this was a wrong guess, as will be shown later.

In 1941 the writer found in Taunton, Mass., the long lost ancient seventeenth-century vellum armorial Scott Pedigree Roll¹⁴ with eighteen shields in colors, together with the Scott arms, quarterly of eight in colors. These membranes of vellum put together make a Pedigree Roll 17½ inches wide by 6 feet 4¼ inches long. Nine generations are shown, commencing with William Scott who lived in the time of Henry VI (1422-61) and ending in the generation of Richard Scott (baptized in Glemsford, co. Suffolk, in 1605) of Boston and Ipswich, Massachusetts, and Providence, Rhode Island, the emigrant to New England on the *Griffin* in 1634. He had married in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, 7 June 1632, Katherine Marbury whose mother Bridget was a sister of Sir Erasmus Dryden, Bart., grandfather of the poet Dryden.

In an article by the writer entitled "The Arms of Richard Scott" published in the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, January, 1942, XCVI, pp. 3-27, with additions and corrections in April of the same year, the Scott Pedigree Roll was studied in detail and illustrated with photographs, including the Scott arms, quarterly of eight in colors, followed by a six-generation genealogy of the Scott family.

An article by the writer, entitled "The Scott Family Needle Work," was published in the Society's *Rhode Island History*, January, 1943, II, no. 1, and April, 1943, II, no. 2. This contains additional data on the later generations of the family. The writer's last article on the Scott family, entitled "John Scott, Merchant," appeared in *Rhode Island History*, July, 1945, IV, pp. 89-92. This has a record of the

¹³A silver cup, weighing 100 ounces, was presented to Capt. Edward Tyng, Commander of the *Snow Prince of Orange* by some of the merchants of Boston as an acknowledgment of the good service done the trade by taking the first French privateer on the coast 24 June 1744. [Howard M. Chapin, *Privateering in King George's War 1739-1748* (Providence, 1928) p. 77.]

¹⁴Now in Rehoboth, Mass., owned by Mrs. Lillian (De Blois) Fox, a Richard¹ Scott descendant in the tenth generation.

use of the Scott arms seal on three letters written in 1765 by John⁵ Scott, heir to the £300,000 Old Tenor, estate of his uncle Judge Edward⁴ Scott.

Immediately after the publication of the picture of the Malbone silver mug in *Antiques*, February, 1933, Howard M. Chapin, then librarian of the Rhode Island Historical Society, wrote to the Reverend Malbone Birkhead asking for more details about the mug. In reply he received two important letters from Miss Anna F. Hunter of Newport.

Unfortunately, the writer knew nothing of these 1933 Hunter letters when he wrote this article, "The Arms of Richard Scott," for the *Collections* in 1939. Mr. Chapin, a sick man at that time, had evidently forgotten the letters which six years earlier he had sent to Dr. Harold Bowditch, Brookline, Mass., with a request to draw the Malbone and Scott arms on two separate shields for the July, 1933 *Collections* (where they appear) "to match the Carpenter, Jones, and Bowen arms which you did some time ago."

Eleven years later Dr. Bowditch found the original Hunter letters in the files of the Committee on Heraldry of the New England Historic Genealogical Society and on the 16 April 1944 mailed to the writer copies, brief abstracts of which follow:

Newport, R. I.
7 Mar. 1933

Your letter to my cousin, Rev. Malbone Birkhead has been sent to me for an answer for I [a great-great-granddaughter] am the person in my family who knows most about the Malbone's since the death of my sister Mrs. Thomas Dunn three years ago . . . I am sorry to say that I rather broke down last summer and am banished to lead an invalid's life out in the country. It is not easy to get at one's papers in a cold shut up house . . .

I can, however, offhand give you our line of descent from . . . Peter Malbone of Queen Anne co., Virginia. His son, Godfrey, married Katherine Scott, of Newport; their daughter Deborah, married Dr. William Hunter. One of *their* daughters married James Birkhead, of Baltimore, and Malbone Birkhead is their grandson. Dr. Hunter's son, Hon. William Hunter, was my grandfather.

I own a small Malbone waiter which is engraved with the coat of arms, but without the crest, but I think I somewhere have a drawing of this, and I know that there are pieces marked with the crest only.

The box of silver came over from England to Godfrey Malbone in 1742. It is my great desire to make possible an exhibit here in 1942 of as many pieces as possible that I can trace. For that purpose I write every new descendant I can hear of to ask if they have a piece. As I am in my

seventy-eight year and do not expect or hope to live that long, I think that if I can leave a good list of present owners some younger descendant might be interested in taking it up and carrying out the scheme.

Very truly yours,

Anna F. Hunter
Newport, R. I.
14 Mar. 1933.

I can now give you a bit more information on the subject of the Malbone name. In Willaston's [Hall's] *History of Town and Parish of Nantwich*, or *Wick Malbank*, 1883, Chester, I found, page 483, Malbon Family. Said from younger branch of Baronial family of Malbank (*Or, 2 bendlets componé Argent & Gules. Eagle regardant, holding in dexter claw a sword ppr.*)

If the description of the arms agrees with the arms that we know our Malbone used [on his silver] it certainly seems as if they were from that Chester family. Possibly from that town of Nantwich you could get information of a member coming out to the British West Indies, where Peter of Virginia is said to have come from.

Where the cup is illustrated in the February number of "Antiques" the assumption that it was bought by young Godfrey when at Oxford I should consider quite unwarranted. It and its companion, now owned by my cousin, Hunter Byington, were part of the chest full which came over to his father in 1742. In fact, family fortunes at one time were so embarrassed by the loss of two vessels that young Godfrey's uncle, Edward Scott, wrote him [4 August 1746] that he would be obliged to come home unless he could manage to earn his own expenses in London.

I have been in search of a pair of candlesticks which were owned by Mrs. William Littlefield, nee Eliza Brinley, and which I believe descended to Tucker Bispham whose mother was Nancy Brinley, but I have not yet been able to get in touch with him.

Sincerely yours,

Anna F. Hunter

Following the publication of the writer's article in the *New England Historical & Genealogical Register* of January, 1942, entitled "The Arms of Richard Scott," he received a letter, dated 28 October 1942, from Miss Ann Putnam Brown of Washington, Conn., a descendant of Godfrey Malbone. The following is a brief extract:

For some time I have been meaning to write you about your article in the January 1942 issue of the Register. I've been very much interested in the Scott family because of its connection with the Malbone family and your article was sent straight from heaven—the line seems very definite now . . .

Your story of Colonel Malbone's setting up a pretentious establishment in Newport agrees with what I have always been told, but your guess that the tankard might have been a present from his merchant friends in

Newport I believe is wrong, for I know that a whole chest full of silver came from London to Godfrey Malbone in 1742 and I believe that it was ordered by him, for I know that the original invoice was in our family for many years. It was lost only in the last fifteen years. I have tried unsuccessfully to find it because of the interest the late Miss Anna F. Hunter of Newport took in this collection of silver. There were many pieces in this chest and Miss Hunter and I have succeeded in locating about 20 or 25 of them (I have not my list at hand). One is a tankard and like the one you mention. It is owned by a gentleman in Tennessee . . . Why the mistake in the coat of arms—especially as the father-in-law owned a Scott shield—I suppose we will never know.

A propos of this silver—did you know that Miss Hunter had planned an exhibition of this silver for 1942 and had obtained promises from many owners of the silver to lend their pieces. The war year of 1942 does definitely not seem to be a good time for such an exhibition and the matter has been dropped. It would be very interesting for some time in the future, however, and might be broadened in scope to include some of the pewter plates, china plates, wine glasses, wallets, and rings which I have located among members of my branch of the Malbone family . . .

Mr. Charles F. Mills of Boston in a letter to the writer, dated 9 June 1943, adds considerable to our knowledge of the Malbone silver when he says:

Only yesterday I saw a copy of your pamphlet, *The Arms of Richard Scott*, which to me is most interesting as I am a descendant of Godfrey Malbone and Katherine Scott . . . I have a small silver tray on the face of which are arms which I assume are similar to those on the silver mug which you describe.

The Malbone silver tray came down through my family into my possession in the following manner:¹⁵ After the death of Col. Godfrey Malbone in 1768 all of his silver was put into a trunk, either by direction or otherwise, and was not distributed until 1816, fifty years after his death. My ancestor, Robert Mackay,¹⁶ Godfrey Malbone's grandson, was born in Georgia where he lived all of his life, with the exception of the six or seven years he spent at school in Scotland. In 1816 he took his family to Newport for the summer, and while there the trunk containing Colonel Malbone's silver was opened and the silver distributed. On his way back to Savannah, Mr. Mackay stopped in New York where he died suddenly of a mysterious malady thought to have been cholera. He is buried in Trinity Church Yard, very close to the grave of Alexander Hamilton.

¹⁵Mr. Charles F. Mills, Boston, Mass., letter dated 2 Nov. 1943, enclosing a photograph of his silver salver.

¹⁶Mary² Malbone, sixth child of Godfrey¹, b. at Newport, R. I., 14 Feb.; bapt. Trinity Church 17 Mar. 1730/31; d. in Augusta, Ga., 7 Oct. 1797; m. (1) at Newport, 11 Jan. 1749/50, Richard Chilcott; m. (2) Robert Mackay, who had a son Robert who d. in 1816. [Malbone Papers.]

In the Malbone papers is a letter dated 9 January 1796, directing that the Malbone silver be returned from Pomfret, Conn., to Newport, R. I. Godfrey Malbone, Sr., died at Newport 22 February 1768. In a letter written the following month to the Town Council at Newport, his widow and eldest son, Godfrey, Jr., declined administration on the personal estate. The son's reason for declining was that he lived out of the Colony. Both asked that administration be granted to son and brother John Malbone.

Godfrey Malbone, Jr., died¹⁷ at Pomfret, Conn., 12 November 1785; and his wife Catherine Brinley, 12 November 1795, surviving her husband by exactly ten years. On 9 January 1796 Francis Brinley, executor of his sister's estate, wrote the following letter (Malbone Papers) which proves that although Godfrey Malbone had been dead for twenty-seven years, his silver had not been distributed and was still intact.

What you say of the Plate makes it proper to be sent here. I now think it will be considered as John Malbone's Estate he having paid more of his Father's debts than the personal Estate amounted to, as administrator, & if it should be considered his Father's, I must take new Letters of Administration & subject myself to settle those old affairs, it should be pack'd with great care, and all the vacances fill'd with straw or fine Hay press'd very hard, or it will certainly be bruised & damaged, if you think it necessary, send a careful person to take charge of it to Providence, and let him leave the key with Mr. Wm. Russell, to whom it would be best that Major Putnam should write a line letting him know what it contains, and desiring him to forward it to me. You should take an account of the contents.

It will be proper that you send me an Acct of expences, nursing, funeral charges &c. paid since my sister's (Mrs. Godfrey Malbone) decease, which I suppose myself authorized to pay . . .

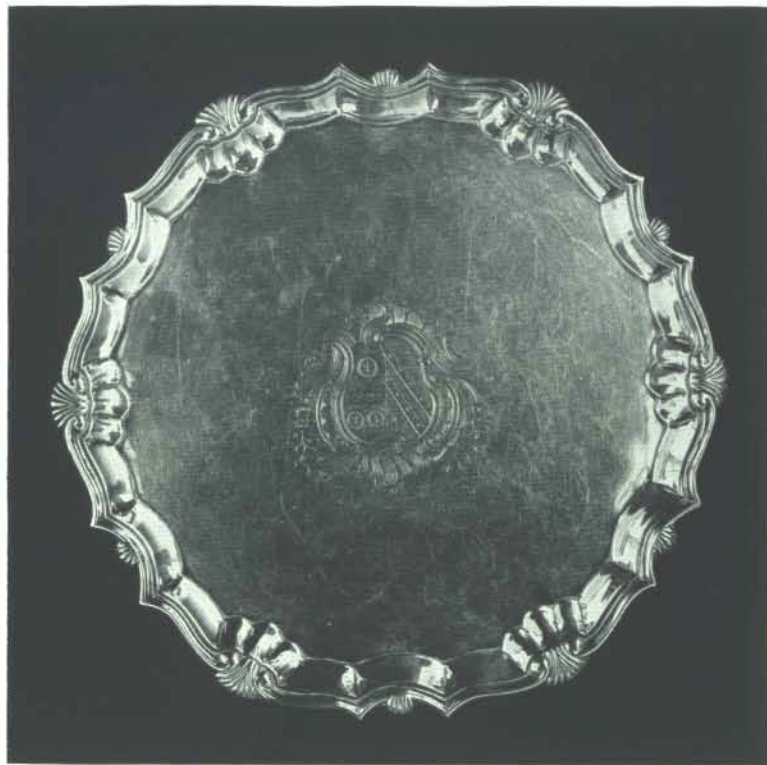
Francis Brinley

Newport Jany 9th. 1796.

To Mr. [Daniel] Fogg,¹⁸ Chaplain of the Church at Pomfret

¹⁷Gabriel Allen of Providence, R. I., who learned the gravestone trade from his father, that superb "sculptor" of Rehoboth, made the horizontal tombstone for the grave of Godfrey Malbone, Jr. A bill in the Malbone Papers shows that the cost of the stone was £50-10-04, plus £4-00-06 for crating and transportation charges from Providence to Pomfret, Conn. The Providence *Sunday Journal* of 9 Nov. 1947 shows a picture of this tomb in an article entitled "Church built by Godfrey Malbone."

¹⁸Aliph³ Malbone, sister of Godfrey³ Malbone, Jr., m. at Newport, 12 Nov. 1754, Francis Brinley, second son of Francis of Roxbury. They had a child, Deborah, who m. Rev. Daniel Fogg, chaplain of the Episcopal church, built by Godfrey Malbone, Jr., on his estate at Pomfret. They lived at Pomfret with Godfrey Malbone, Jr. [Malbone Papers.]



Courtesy of Mr. Charles F. Mills

Col. Godfrey Malbone's armorial silver salver owned by Mr. Charles F. Mills, of Boston, Massachusetts. It came into the possession of his ancestor Robert Mackay, grandson of Colonel Malbone, when his chest of silver was divided among the heirs in 1816.

It is a George II circular silver salver made in 1742 by Robert Abercrombie, plate worker of St. Martin's-le-Grand, London. It is 10½ inches in diameter, with scrolled and shell-moulded pie-crust edge, on three one-inch high hoof feet, engraved with a rococo escutcheon with the impaled arms of *Malbone* and *Scott*.

Mr. Charles F. Mills' silver salver, here illustrated, is the only piece of the Godfrey Malbone silver the writer has had the opportunity to examine. Made by Robert Abercrombie, plate worker of St. Martin's-le-Grand, London, in 1742, it is a George II circular silver salver 10½ inches in diameter, with scrolled and shell-moulded pie-crust edge, on three one-inch hoof feet, engraved with a rococo escutcheon with the impaled arms of *MALBONE* and *SCOTT*.

The salver was a serving tray, sometimes used for beer or other liquids. The short legs permitted the tray to be easily picked up without spilling the contents. At some time during the last two hundred years it has been used as a platter as evidenced by the numerous knife marks. This particular salver has the usual four silver marks—maker, assay, hall, and date. The first are the initials "R.A." within a heart, denoting the first letters of the christian name and the surname of the maker, Robert Abercrombie.¹⁹

The impaled arms of *MALBONE* and *SCOTT* are in the center of the salver on an escutcheon 1½ inches high by 1½ inches wide. The over-all size of the mantling is 2¾ inches high by 3¼ inches wide. There are no helms nor crests.

The first thing that catches the heraldist's eye in studying these engraved impaled arms is that the tinctures represented by lines and points are all carefully shown on the Malbone coat, but not on the Scott. In the Malbone arms the metal field *or* (gold) is indicated by dots or points. The two bendlets gobony (same as compony) ermine and gules (made up of alternate squares of metals and colors) are indicated correctly as black ermine on a plain field *argent* (silver), and the perpendicular lines in the alternating squares denote *gules* (red).

The Scott coat is engraved in outline, as drawn in Guillim's *Display of Heraldry* and no attempt made to show the tinctures. As the field and lambs are *argent* (silver), it was only necessary for the engraver to add perpendicular lines to the fess to denote *gules* (red) to make the tinctures of the Scott arms complete.

In addition to the two Malbone silver mugs and the salver illustrated in this article, the silver tray in the possession of Miss Anna F. Hunter, and the two silver candlesticks she mentions, there is also a silver cake basket in the possession of Mrs. Henry Wharton, Jr., of Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania.

¹⁹Sir Ambrose Heal gives Robert Abercrombie as a Plate Worker, St. Martin's-le-Grand, from 1731 to 1743. There was another "R.A." (Robert Andrews) of this period, who is given as a Plate Worker in Gutter Lane, only for the year 1745. In a letter to the writer, under date of 15 Apr. 1944, Mrs. Kathryn C. Buhler of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, is of the opinion that the 1742 date "can safely be definitely attributed to Robert Abercrombie as the maker of the Malbone silver." The engraved date of 1742 on the Godfrey Malbone silver mug would appear to be final proof of the year of manufacture.

J. H. Buck, *Old Plate* (New York, Gorham Manufacturing Co., 1888), p. 231, lists a "waiter" made by R:A (Robert Abercromby) in 1740, and on page 232, "small salvers" made by him in 1744.

[to be concluded]

THE PATROL OF NARRAGANSETT BAY (1774-1776)

by H.M.S. *Rose*, Captain James Wallace

Extracted and transcribed by WILLIAM G. ROELKER

Written and annotated by CLARKSON A. COLLINS, 3RD.

[concluded from January, 1950, v. 9, no. 1, p. 23]

Even though the Newport town council now had permission to provide necessary supplies for the King's ships, Wallace no doubt considered that a little prompting in the form of cannon shot might hasten delivery. The *Mercury* of November 13, 1775, carried an account of the first shots fired against the town itself and of a new brush between some of Wallace's vessels and the Providence privateers.

Last Wednesday as a number of lads were digging clams at the lower part of this town, the bomb brig in the harbour fired a 4 pounder at them: The shot from which went through the roof of a shoemaker's shop, struck Mr. Hunter's distill-house and fell in the yard; and on Saturday morning the same vessel fired 3 swivel shot over the long wharf, one of which went through the house of Mr. B. Baker, on the point. These shot must be supposed as the *earnest* for the 1600 weight of beef and 3 hogsheads of rum, which a number of gentlemen of the town, the day before, voted to supply the ships in this harbour and which they received in a few hours after the firing!!!

Last Thursday, about noon, the bomb brig, a schooner, and 3 tenders, a part of the ministerial navy in this harbour, weighed anchor and went up the Bay, near Warwick Neck, where they met two Provincial sloops, who engaged them warmly for a short time, when night coming on, and the wind blowing excessively hard at S. E. they parted; and next morning the brig, schooner, &c. came down again.

Tis said two of the tenders were hull'd, and received some considerable damage in their sails and rigging; the Provincial sloops, we hear, received scarcely any injury at all.

The same day Capt. Wallace, of the *Rose*, sent a letter to the inhabitants of this town, demanding an immediate supply of provisions . . . and threatened to execute his orders in case the provisions were not granted, but did not tell what his orders were.

Without doubt the orders which Wallace threatened to execute were those sent him by Graves on September 17 "not only to take or destroy Rebels at Sea but to lay Waste and set fire to those Towns on the Sea Coast that shelter Pirates . . . Constantly protecting and defending His Majesty's faithful Subjects and their property wher-

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Patrol of Narragansett Bay

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ever they can be destinguished."¹⁸ Fortunately the desired supplies were made available before Wallace considered it essential to employ punitive action. No one could tell, however, when he might feel it necessary to "execute his orders," and the emigration to the mainland continued unabated. For the protection of the town in case the British should decide to bombard it, all persons who had moved away taking their fire buckets with them were requested to return them immediately.¹⁹

His first objective having been gained, temporarily at least, as far as Newport was concerned, Wallace turned his attention to the other islands in the Bay. On December 10 his smaller vessels landed a large raiding party on Conanicut. The marines and sailors marched across the island from the East Ferry to the West Ferry, burning houses and barns and collecting livestock. The *Mercury*, telling of the day's events, states in part:

Tis said Capt. Wallace commanded on this *humane* expedition. A company of minute-men had left Conanicut the afternoon before, so that there were but about 40 or 50 soldiers on the island, most of whom had been inlisted but a few days, and arrived there but the evening before, in miserable condition for such a sudden attack; but notwithstanding, tis said, there is certainly one officer of marines killed, and 7 or 8 badly wounded. There was not one Provincial either killed or wounded, except Mr. John Martin, who was shot in his belly standing unarmed in his door.²⁰

Late in December Wallace was again forced to renew his threats against Newport, a circumstance brought about by a new prohibition of the sale of supplies to his ships and by the arrival of the Continental general, Charles Lee, to command the rapidly growing colonial forces on Aquidneck. Lee succeeded Esek Hopkins, who had recently been offered the command of the newly organized American navy. Wallace addressed his dispatch to Graves, not knowing that Rear Admiral Molyneux Shulldham had been sent out from England to take over command of the naval forces of the North American Station. Shulldham reached Boston on December 30 and began his active command of the northern squadron on January 27.

¹⁸Graves to the Admiralty, Sept. 26, 1775.

¹⁹Newport *Mercury*, Dec. 3, 1775.

²⁰*Ibid.*, Dec. 11, 1775.

Rose, Rhode Island the 28th. Decemr. 1775—

Sir,

Since my last of the 10th. Inst. the Rebels Issued out Orders from Providence to break off all Communication with the King's Ships, not to supply them with anything whatever, on pain of Death; Upon which I acquainted the Town, if they were a Town, we must be upon other Terms—A Committee came on board, desired a Truce, while they could send off a Number of Inhabitants to Providence, to represent their situation, and to obtain permission to supply us with every thing we wanted—this I granted—Twenty of them accordingly went off, and obtained leave to supply us; so that now we are upon the same Footing as before—But this I know can't last long. The Rebels suspect Newport is intended to be made a Post for the King, this has brought Lee here with more Troops, what his Intentions are I can't at present penetrate, unless to erect Batteries and provoke us to destroy the Town.—If Government has no Intentions upon the place, would it not be better to destroy it, and carry the War along the Coast; the Destruction of a Great Town, without particular Orders, is a serious matter; however something must be done for the King's Service, if they won't endeavour to save their own Towns, why should we—'tis better they should be destroyed than that they should be Enemies to us.

Lee enter'd the Town the 25th. Instt. with a Detachment, leaving his Main body (about 2000) without the Town:—Began, with sending for a Number of the Principal People, who were suspected to be Friends to Government—Tendered them the inclosed Affidavit; some that refused he took away Prisoners with him; this Visit 'tis said was in consequence of a Report, that a Number of Inhabitants were ready to join me, for the King's Service—however I suppose he was convinced to the contrary, and after Vapouring two or three days left us again. . . . Upon the departure of Lee, they sent on board and offered us every thing we wanted; I accepted till the 8th. Janry—Indeed we can do but little at present the Weather having been very severe—...²¹

Despite the cold Wallace managed to keep his men employed and his vessels continually on the move. On January 8, 1776, the *Swan*, the *Bolton*, and the tenders fired at buildings on Conanicut and exchanged shots with a number of field pieces on Warwick Neck.²² A week later Prudence Island was the scene of a minor battle, the details of which Wallace communicated in his final report to Graves.

²¹Robert Wilder Neeser, ed., *The Despatches of Molyneux Shulldham* (New York, Naval History Society, 1913) p. 47.

²²Newport *Mercury*, Jan. 15, 1776.

Rose Rhode Island the 14 Janry 1776.

Sir

The Rebels having for some time past kept from one to two hundred men upon the Islands to prevent our Supplies—And by a Law making it Death for any one to Supply us has put us to great inconvenience being much in want of Hay—On Friday morning the 12th instant I stood up the Bay with H.M. Ships Glasgow, Swan and Tenders in Order to procure some—At about 12 at Noon being abreast of Prudence we saw a body of Armed Men with a Field Piece, who followed us as we sailed along—At the South end of the Island I saw a quantity of Hay, and determined to land and seize it—this they perceived, and set fire to the Stacks and retired to their Stone fences to oppose us (every Field has Stone inclosures) We landed, beat them from Fence to Fence for four Miles into their Country, firing and wasting the Country as we advanced along; We burnt twelve of fifteen Farm Houses, took a great deal of Stock, when Night coming on we gave over the pursuit, and retired back to our Ships bringing with us the Stock. When we got back to our Boats, the people was fatigued and Cold, and fearing they might be Frost bit Ordered them to Embark and leave the Cattle behind 'till next morning—Next Morning we landed again to bring Cattle off, but, during the night, reinforcements of Five or Six hundred Men had been sent on and drove the Cattle to the other Extremity of the Island, And large Bodies of Armed Rebels stood behind Stone fences to oppose us. In this situation we contended ourselves with taking off some Hay Stacks in their sight and Embarked our Men again—In the attack the first day we Killed two of their Men, and took, two Prisoners both Wounded.—The next day some of the Swans and Glasgows Men staying too far from the Main Body fell into an Ambush, and one Man of the Swan was killed, two Mortally Wounded and one Slightly.—One Man of the Glasgow was Shot thro' the thigh and fell into the hands of the Rebels, and one Slightly Wounded—Our loss wou'd been less, had our people have had less Spirit—The Country is kept in alarm all round. . .

This was the last important clash between Wallace and the colonial forces. No more trouble was experienced with the town of Newport, which continued to supply the ships throughout the winter. Indeed the town council and the officer commanding on Rhode Island had permission by secret vote of the General Assembly to allow Wallace even more than was required for his own vessels, if such action were necessary to save the town from destruction.²³ When the British next landed on Prudence, they found the island deserted. The inhabitants had fled, taking their remaining livestock with them. According to the *Mercury* Wallace was forced to content himself with

²³Bartlett, *op. cit.*, v. 7, pp. 449, 450, 451.

burning a number of buildings and gathering up potatoes which had been left behind.²⁴

By January, 1776, the time had passed when Wallace's activities in Narragansett Bay could decisively influence events taking place around invested Boston. He continued to handle his command, however, in a manner which earned the high approval of his new superior. On January 19 Shulldham wrote to Secretary Philip Stevens, "as Captain Wallace's services deserve every reward can be confer'd on him, I humbly recommend it to their Lordships Consideration sending him out a Larger and better Ship, especially as the *Rose* is Two years Foul, and that from his keeping the Inhabitants of that Province in so much Awe it would be improper to remove him from it."²⁵

The little *Rose*, nevertheless, from whose quarter-deck Wallace had first sighted Trinity steeple and the once busy wharves of Newport, was destined to carry him forever from the landmarks that had become familiar during two years of arduous service. With the evacuation of Boston early in March, 1776, the usefulness of the squadron at Newport was greatly diminished, and moreover the vessels were badly needed elsewhere. The *Rose* was ordered to Halifax for refitting. *Swan* and *Bolton* were to intercept British vessels bound for Boston, now occupied by the Americans, and *Glasgow* was directed to proceed to New York with the dispatches of General Howe and Admiral Shulldham.²⁶

After receiving these orders Wallace sent out the bomb brig *Bolton* and an armed schooner to cruise off Block Island and await the arrival of the rest of the squadron. On April 5 he set sail, but being apprehensive that some of the last vessels might not be able to get out of the harbor, returned and anchored for the night. Captain Tyrringham Howe in the *Glasgow*, however, continued on his way to New York with the dispatches.²⁷

To Howe was given the honor of writing the final chapter in the story of Wallace's patrol of Narragansett Bay. Early in the morning of April 6 in the waters off Block Island a fleet of seven or eight sail was sighted. Howe in the tradition of Drake and Grenville, tacked and stood towards them. They proved to be the ships of the new

²⁴Newport Mercury, Feb. 19, 1776.

²⁵Neeser, *op. cit.*, p. 40.

²⁶*Ibid.*, p. 108.

²⁷*Ibid.*, p. 178.

Continental navy under command of Wallace's old opponent, Esek Hopkins.

Hopkins and his men, flushed with victory and West Indies rum, were returning from their first offensive operation, and their vessels were laden with the spoils of New Providence in the Bahamas.

In the engagement which followed, Howe was outnumbered and outgunned but neither outfought nor outsailed.²⁸ The *Glasgow's* second broadside disabled the 14-gun brig *Cabot*. Howe was then engaged by the *Alfred*, 24-guns, Hopkins' flagship. She was able to accomplish little more than had the *Cabot*. Her steering tackle was carried away early in the action, which gave the *Glasgow* an opportunity to get in several more broadsides before the American vessel could be brought under control. In the running fight that followed his meeting with Hopkins, Howe lost one man killed and three wounded, while the American casualties amounted to ten killed and fourteen wounded. The *Glasgow*, however, was severely damaged particularly in her spars and rigging, for the American seamen, after the fashion of privateersmen, appear to have aimed high with the intention of disabling and then boarding their opponent.

At about seven o'clock in the morning Hopkins decided to give up the chase, not thinking it "proper to follow as it would have brought on an Action with the whole of their Fleet, and as I had upwards of thirty of our best Seamen onboard the Prizes and some that were onboard had got too much liquor out of the Prizes to be fit for duty . . ."²⁹ The battered *Glasgow* entered Newport Harbor some four hours later firing her guns as a signal to Wallace to put to sea after the American vessels. Solomon Southwick gloatingly described the entry of the shot scarred ship as "under all the sail she could set, yelping from the mouths of her cannon (like a broken leg'd dog) as a signal of her being sadly wounded."³⁰

Wallace had already slipped his cables and stood to sea. Since daybreak he had been carrying on a desultory duel with a pair of 18-pounders that the Rhode Island troops had brought down to Coddington's Point during the night; but there was no time now,

²⁸The reports of Wallace, Shulldham, and Tyrringham Howe on this action may be found in Neeser, *op. cit.*, pp. 177-186. The reports of the American officers are in the Hopkins Papers at the Rhode Island Historical Society. They have been printed in *The Letter Book of Esek Hopkins*, edited by Alverda S. Beck.

²⁹Alverda S. Beck, ed., *The Letter Book of Esek Hopkins* (Providence, Rhode Island Historical Society, 1932) p. 50.

³⁰Newport Mercury, April 8, 1776.

with Hopkins escaping to the westward, to inflict the frequently threatened punishment on Newport. For several days Wallace cruised about Block Island, hoping that Hopkins might sally out of New London, where he had put in after his encounter with the *Glasgow*. Wallace was also on the lookout for the *Bolton* and the armed schooner *Hawke*, but finding no trace of them and rightly concluding that they had fallen afoul of the American squadron, on April 10 he gave his vessels the signal to disperse in accordance with Shulldham's orders.

Last of the British squadron to leave Newport was the *Glasgow* which had remained in the harbor to effect emergency repairs. During the night of April 7 she was subjected to bombardment by the guns on shore, which, Solomon Southwick thought, "By the terrible cracking on board . . . , the noise and confusion among her men . . . did good execution."³¹ She was not so badly hurt, however, that she could not proceed to Halifax. About noon on the 7th in company with a store ship and two sloops she ran "down the back of Conanicut, and stood out to sea, supposed to have gone in quest of Capt. Wallace, to make a woeful complaint of the incivility of the YANKIES!"³²

During the more than two years which Wallace had spent in command of the British squadron in Narragansett Bay he had seen the spark of hostile misunderstanding flare up into open warfare. On his first coming, when the *Rose* was his only vessel, his force had been too small to do more than enrage and annoy the colonists. Later reinforcements had given him control of the Bay, but had been insufficient to allow him to strike any powerful blow on land. Nevertheless, though unable to make Newport a "Post for the King," he had prevented the greater part of its resources from being of aid to his opponents. In addition he had gathered considerable quantities of much needed provisions for the British forces at Boston and at the same time had deprived the enemy of their use. As a thorn in the side of Rhode Island's war effort he had served his superiors well, earning their commendation for his prompt and effective execution of his orders and his initiative in taking decisive action when orders were lacking.

³¹*Ibid.*

³²*Ibid.*

[end]

STATE SONG OF RHODE ISLAND

by KENNETH E. CROUCH*

ON APRIL 30, 1946, the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations adopted as the official state song *Rhode Island* with words and music by T. Clarke Brown of East Greenwich.

The song was written after Mr. Brown had seen the inaugural ceremonies for the President of the United States. As the governor of each state was presented, a score identified with that particular state was played. Inasmuch as Rhode Island had no song appropriate for such occasions, he wrote the march *Rhode Island*.

The number was selected to be played at the All-New England High Schools Music Festival at Keene, New Hampshire, and was rendered by a 150 piece festival band under the direction of Paul Wiggins. Inspired by this recognition, he wrote appropriate words for the march and changed the number into a composition.

Mr. Brown was born at East Greenwich on June 17, 1886, his ancestors being among the early settlers in the town. During his youth he played fife in a local fife and drum corps, later becoming a flute and piccolo soloist. During his musical career he has organized and directed several bands. He received his education in the East Greenwich public schools and for two years attended the East Greenwich Academy. It was in this Academy that Dr. Eben Tourjee (1834-1891) in 1859 founded the first conservatory of music in America—the East Greenwich Musical Institute. He later founded, in 1864, in Providence, the Providence Conservatory, which in 1867 became the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston.

From 1904 to 1907 Mr. Brown studied at the Rhode Island State College at Kingston and as a faculty member later, instructed the college and R.O.T.C. bands there from 1932 to 1936.

In World War I he served as chief bandmaster of the Second Naval District attached to Headquarters, U. S. Naval Training Station, at Newport, Rhode Island. As such, he organized and directed the famed Second Naval District Reserve Band. Following the war he served successively as bandmaster of the Fifth Regiment and Sixth Regiment Bands, U. S. Marine Corps, and was promoted to Post Bandmaster at the U. S. Marine Base at Quantico, Virginia. He

*Staff member of the Bedford, Virginia, *Democrat*.

organized and directed the Providence, Rhode Island, Post Number One, American Legion Band, which won distinction at the first American Legion convention in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1921. During World War II he was chief of the Naval Civilian Police Force at the U. S. Naval Advance Base Depot at Davisville, Rhode Island.

NEWS NOTES

Of particular interest to Rhode Islanders are some recent publications dealing with the state. The Bibliographical Society of America has recently published *Rhode Island Imprints 1727-1800*, ed. by John Eliot Alden, Curator of Rare Books, University of Pennsylvania, and published in New York by R. R. Bowker Company, \$15.00.

About to come from the press is a reprint of v. 21 of *The Early Records of the Town of Providence*. Nearly every set lacks this volume and many will desire to secure this reprint to complete the set on their shelves. It is particularly valuable because of the recent publication of the *Index to the Early Records of the Town of Providence*, v. 1-21, compiled by Mr. Richard LeBaron Bowen, president of the Rhode Island Historical Society. The two volumes will be sold by the Society for \$6.00.

Benjamin Franklin and Catharine Ray Greene, Their Correspondence, 1755-1790, edited and annotated by William Greene Roelker, director of the Rhode Island Historical Society, was recently published by the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. The book has been most favorably reviewed and is having a wide circulation. \$3.00

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Mr. Douglas E. Leach, a graduate student at Harvard University, has just completed a fresh study of King Philip's War, largely based upon original sources including the town and colony records of southern New England. The results of his work will appear in a doctoral dissertation entitled *The Causes and Effects of King Philip's War*. Publication is planned for a later date. The staff of the Rhode Island Historical Society is happy to have been of assistance during the course of Mr. Leach's research.

Reprints of Hillman Metcalf Bishop's *Why Rhode Island Opposed the Federal Constitution* may be obtained from the Society for \$1.00.

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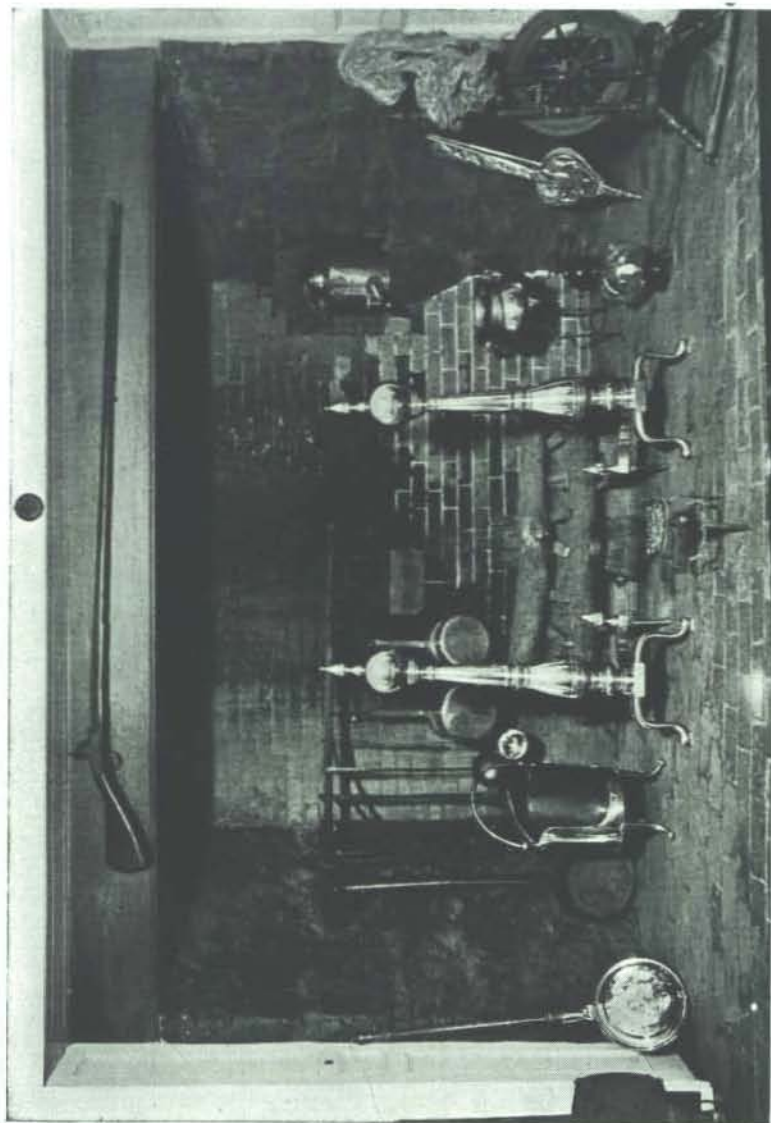
Miss Julia D. Cushman and Mr. Franklin R. Cushman have recently given a number of pieces of furniture, which are of historical significance to the Rhode Island Historical Society and which tend to enhance the furnishings of John Brown House. In the hall have been placed Moses Brown's slant top desk, presumably made by Job Townsend of Newport in the eighteenth century and a mahogany swing leg table of the Queen Anne type with ball and claw feet, doubtless made by John Goddard. Temporarily in the dining room is an attractive field desk, which belonged to Moses Brown Lockwood, 1815-1872. In a bedroom on the third floor is a cherry, straight top, highboy, a fan back Windsor and two low back Windsors, all from the household of Moses Brown.

* * *

The Cocumscussoc Association reports that a caretaker is now in residence at Smith's Castle at Cocumscussoc near Wickford, the historic home of the Smith and Updike families. Interior painting and renovation have been undertaken in order to preserve the building until extensive restoration can begin. The modern veranda has been partially removed, an alteration which brings back the eighteenth century appearance of the house. The National Council for Historic Sites and Buildings has declared restoration of Smith's Castle to be of outstanding importance.

* * *

The oriental rug on the floor of the main hall and the Sarabend carpet on the stairs leading to the second floor have dressed up John Brown House immeasurably. From a utilitarian point of view, they help greatly in reducing noise and facilitating house keeping. To the many friends who contributed to the fund to purchase the floor and stair covering, the Society is deeply grateful.



Rhode Island Historical Society

Fireplace on the west side of the "Fire Room" in the Greene Homestead, where Katy wrote many of her letters to Franklin.

This halftone illustration is one used in *Benjamin Franklin and Catharine Ray Greene, Their Correspondence, 1755-1790* and is used by courtesy of the American Philosophical Society.

BOOK REVIEW

Benjamin Franklin and Catharine Ray Greene—Their Correspondence 1755-1790, edited and annotated by William Greene Roelker, Philadelphia, American Philosophical Society, 1949. ix, 147 p. \$3.00.

Lovers of Franklin and particularly those, like the reviewer, who love Franklin and Rhode Island, have a treat in store for them in this charming volume, which contains all the known correspondence (about one hundred letters) between Franklin and his dear friend Catharine (Ray) Greene.

Catharine Ray, born in 1731, was twenty-three years old when she met forty-seven year old Franklin—already the great Benjamin Franklin—at Boston in November or December 1754. An old maid by eighteenth century standards, she was on a visit from her isolated Block Island home (twelve miles off Point Judith), to her sister Judith, wife of Thomas Hubbard of Boston, a step-son of Franklin's brother John, who had recently married the widow Hubbard. In his capacity as joint Deputy-Postmaster General for the British Colonies in North America, Franklin had come to Boston from his home in Philadelphia on a tour of inspection of post-offices. On December 30, 1754, he set out for Newport by carriage, accompanied by Catharine Ray. Neither the time of their arrival nor the route taken is known. It is apparent from Franklin's letters to "Katy" in the following March and October, that in the course of the journey he made love to her without success. She wrote him frequently, sent him sugar plums, and made it clear that he had made a deep impression on her sensibilities. He was flattered and pleased, though perhaps a little embarrassed, by her interest and, from time to time, replied with his characteristic charm. They continued to correspond until Franklin left for England in 1757.

In April, 1758, Catharine Ray married William Greene, Jr., of Warwick, R. I., son of the late Governor and later Chief Justice and Governor himself. As far as is known, there was no further correspondence with Franklin until 1762, when Katy wrote Franklin congratulating him on his safe return and telling of her happy marriage. He replied briefly, and on December 20, 1762, she invited him to visit her home on his next trip to New England. He accepted promptly, writing that he would do so the next spring or summer, and working in a bit of broad humor about multiplication, addition, etc. Franklin set out from New York for New England with his eighteen year old daughter Sally in April, 1763, and, good as his word, paid a visit to the Greenes. He fell off his horse on his way to Warwick injuring his arm. The accident paved the way for the kindly ministrations of his friend Katy as soon as Sally and he had arrived at her home.

The correspondence was renewed only to be interrupted again by Franklin's departure for England in November, 1764. As far as is known the only letter between them from 1764 until Franklin's return to America in 1775, was one from Franklin to Katy in 1772, in which he sent her a recipe for Parmesan cheese, cheese being a chief cash crop of the district in which the Greenes lived. In May, 1775, Franklin landed in Philadelphia. Katy again wrote promptly to congratulate him on his safe return, and Franklin as promptly responded.

Though Franklin and Katy met only five times, the correspondence thus resumed continued until March, 1789, about a year before Franklin's death.

The letters contain little of public or scientific interest, but they give us a heart-warming picture of two most lovable people, the brilliant, wise, benevolent Franklin and the deeply affectionate, outgoing, devoted Katy, model wife, mother and friend. Nor is this by any means the exclusive interest of the letters to those who already love Franklin, and who must come to love Katy, too, as they read her letters, for the editor and annotator (he is in truth far more than this) has woven into the correspondence many letters between Franklin and his sister, Jane (Mrs. Edward Mecom) of Boston. These interesting letters are pertinent, because as the volume clearly brings out, Mrs. Mecom and Katy were closely associated after the memorable visit of Franklin and Katy to Boston in 1754. The two women corresponded, and when Mrs. Mecom (twenty years Katy's senior) fled from Boston, after the day of Lexington and Concord, she found hospitable shelter at the Greenes'.

The letters throw welcome light on the outstanding Rhode Islanders of the Revolutionary epoch. Katy's older sister Anna was the wife of Governor Ward; her daughter Phebe married her cousin, Major Samuel Ward, Governor Ward's favorite child; and her niece, Kitty Littlefield, married General Greene.

Roelker's editorship is all that can be desired: deft, accurate, and sufficiently comprehensive. His introduction is pleasant and informing, and the ten illustrations are well selected and reproduced.

A list of the letters, with dates and a star indicating those previously published, and a selective genealogical chart showing the relationships of the principal characters, particularly those between the Wards and the Greenes, would have been welcome. But one cannot expect everything even in a book as good as this.

BERNHARD KNOLLENBERG

Chester, Connecticut.

ACCESSIONS

Gift of John J. Rowe, a collection of pre-Civil War Rhode Island bank notes.

Gift of John P. Dexter, a Samuel Vernon tankard.

Gift of Donald S. Babcock, two ms. ship account books.

Gift of Misses Alice S. and Eunice W. Dexter, eighteen pieces of Chinese export porcelain, five teaspoons, sugar tongs, two tablespoons, two knives and forks with bone handles, and one earthenware plate, largely from their great grandfather and his wife, Edward and Abby (Smith) Dexter.

By purchase, small colored profile portrait of Gen. Josiah Whitaker.

By purchase, *History of Ludlow, Vt.*, by Ina Harris Harding.

Gift of the editor, *Benjamin Franklin and Catharine (Ray) Greene, their correspondence, 1755-1790*, ed. by William G. Roelker.

Gift of the editor, *Rhode Island Imprints, 1727-1800*, ed. by John Eliot Alden.

By purchase, *Charles Wilson Peale*, 2 v., by Charles Coleman Sellers.

By purchase, *Rhode Island Almanac for the Year 1729*, by Poor Robin (Newport, James Franklin).

Gift of the author, *Les Franco-Américains et le "Melting Pot,"* by Ulysse Forget, M.D.

By purchase, Burke's *Peerage, baronetage, and knighthood* (1949 ed.).

Gift of Mrs. George W. Matteson, Jr., five pieces of Chinese export porcelain of the Grinnell family.

Gift of Mrs. Sherman A. Murphy, Abby W. Pearce's diploma from Young Ladies' High School, 1831.

Gift of J. King Walpole, ledger and subscription list of the Eagle Bank, 1800.

Gift of the author, *Descendants of Thomas Lawton* (ms.), by Elva Lawton.

Gift of the author, *Gregory Dexter, of London and New England 1610-1700*, by Bradford Fuller Swan.

Gift of Mrs. T. I. Hare Powell, *The Mount Vernon China—a catalog*.

Gift of Mme. Avis Bliven Charbonnel, a trombone used in the American Brass Band.

Gift of William G. Roelker, *A Rhode Island Chaplain in the Revolution, Letters of Ebenezer David to Nicholas Brown, 1775-1778*, ed. by William G. Roelker and Jeannette Black.

Gift of Mrs. Edith B. Tallmadge, miscellaneous material of Wheeler Martin.

Gift of Samuel N. Baker, a sugar sifter made by George Baker, Providence silversmith.

Gift of the author, *Portland Glass*, by Frank H. Swan.

Gift of Rufus C. Fuller, a photostat of the marriage record of Benjamin Smith.

Gift of the Roger Williams Family Association, *Roger Williams of Providence*, by Harriett Weeden and Bertha W. Anthony.

Gift of the author, *Dyer Ancestry*, by Lelia Morse Wilson.

Gift of Bruce Bigelow, photographs of areas south of Brown University, 1948-1949.

Gift of the author, *Genealogy of the Bourn, Boorn-Bowen family* (ms.), by Mrs. Jennie B. Julian. Also *Descendants of Richard Bowen and Thomas Bowen of Richmond, N. H.* (ms.)

Gift of Miss Dorman H. Weaver, the Cozzens Bible.

Gift of Brig. Gen. Chester A. Files, records, minutes, reports, correspondence, etc., of the Providence Marine Corps of Artillery.

From the Brainerd family, *Ancestry of Thomas Chalmers Brainerd*, by Thomas Chalmers Brainerd, ed. by Donald Lines Jacobus.

From Mrs. Roy B. Cook, miscellaneous manuscript material of the Aldrich family: deeds, letters, bills, etc.

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEW MEMBERS

December 1, 1949 — March 15, 1950

Mrs. Franklin H. Arnold	Mrs. J. Monroe Hamlen
Mr. W. Stanley Barrett	Mr. Carl F. Hesse
Miss Edith R. Blanchard	Mr. & Mrs. Frank V. Kimball
Mrs. Samuel Ellsworth Bradt	Greenwood, R. I.
DeKalb, Illinois	Mrs. R. Bruce Lindsay
Mrs. G. Edward Buxton	Mr. & Mrs. Edwin J. Loucks
Mr. & Mrs. Edmund J. Canning	Mrs. Warren McConihe
Mrs. Henry E. Davis	Mr. Paul W. Monohon
Cranston, R. I.	Mrs. William W. Moss
Mrs. Henry H. Fales	Mr. William Howard Paine
Mr. R. Leslie Fletcher	Miss Madeleine Polsey
Mr. Henry Wilder Foote	Mr. Harold D. Stone
Cambridge, Mass.	Mr. Robert H. Simister
Mr. H. Raymond Fox	Mrs. Margaret D. Taylor
Mrs. G. Peabody Gardner	Mr. William J. Thompson
Brookline, Mass.	Edgewood, R. I.
Mr. Edwin Scott Gaustad	Mr. Arthur F. Watts
Mr. Conrad E. Green	Cranston, R. I.
Rumford, R. I.	Mr. B. Forrest Wilcox

LECTURES

April 12	8:15 p.m.
A Tour of the Marine Museum (<i>Illustrated with colored slides</i>)	
MACDONALD STEERS, Assistant Curator, The Marine Historical Association, Inc., Mystic, Connecticut	
April 19	2:30 p.m.
Loyalty to a Symbol (<i>Illustrated with Indian objects</i>)	
PRINCESS REDWING, Author and Lecturer	
May 24	2:30 p.m.
Informal Lecture-Recital on	
Early and Late Rhode Island Pianoforte Music	
MME. AVIS BLIVEN-CHARBONNEL, Concert Pianist and Lecturer	