DAVID WALLIS REEVES, 1838-1900
Leader of the American Band of Providence, 1866-1900
[see inside front cover]

ISSUED QUARTERLY AT PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND
THE EARLY HISTORY OF RHODE ISLAND'S COURT SYSTEM
by John T. Farrell

It was no part of the Rhode Island tradition to despise wholesome laws, "conformeable to the Lawes of England, soe far as the nature and constitution of our place will admit," and it was with some testiness that the historian Samuel Greene Arnold refuted the slanders of neighboring colonies which "from the absence of any law religion at either Providence or Aquedneck, freely charged them with a disregard for both law and religion." There was certainly a lack of order in the early history of the settlements made in and around Rhode Island. It was certainly a lack of order in the early history of the settlements made in and around Rhode Island.

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Material for this article was acquired in the course of preparing an introduction to the volume on the Rhode Island Court of Equity, 1741-1743, scheduled for publication in the series of American Legal Records on the Littleton Griswold fund. Because of the importance of the seventeenth century background to a proper appreciation of later Rhode Island legal history, it has seemed desirable to have in print a treatment of that aspect of the colony's institutional history which authorities have so far covered in such a way as occasionally to mislead their readers. Preoccupation with the personalities of Roger Williams, William Coddington et al., has not resulted in any corresponding interest in the solemn efforts made by the colony's founders to construct a government of laws. On the legal history of Rhode Island the chapter in Edward Field's State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations (Boston, 1902) III, 89-169, by E. C. Stines, is entitled "The Struggle for Judicial Supremacy." Like the article by A. M. Eaton, "The Development of the Judicial System in Rhode Island," in the Yale Law Journal XIV (Jan. 1905), 148-170, it is more concerned with the divorce of legislative and judicial powers in the nineteenth century than in any coherent explanation of origins. Wilkins Updike's Memoirs of the Rhode Island Bar (Boston, 1842) and Thomas Durfee, Gleanings from the Judicial History of Rhode Island (Rhode Island Historical Tracts No. 18, Providence, 1883) are very helpful only for the eighteenth century.

Narragansett Bay, but that was a state of affairs to be attributed to the enforced scattering of refugees from the other colonies which remained hostile to their exiles' efforts to achieve "soul liberty" in that neighborhood. As the records of the colony reveal, there was no lack of intention on the part of the settlers—particularly those in Portsmouth and in Newport—to provide for themselves a regular system of courts and as much of their common law heritage as could be adapted to their circumstances. The judicial office derives obscurely from "dispensers" for Providence as well as from "judge" and "elder" for Portsmouth and Newport, while the conventional term of the rest of New England, "magistrate," was looked upon as too pretentious while there was no settled jurisdiction. The men of Providence were of the opinion that arbitration was a generally suitable method of settling differences, and if not the rule in all cases in neighboring "states" it was at least forbidden nowhere. They therefore agreed to enforce what was "but common humanity between man and man" at the instance of five disposers who might order disputants to choose arbitrators or, if the parties refused, to name such themselves. In the absence of very many records for this period of Providence history it is not possible to estimate the results of this venture in compulsory arbitration. Court records appear first, not at Providence, but in the records of the Aquidneck towns.

The settlement of Pocasset, shortly to be called Portsmouth, was made at the northern end of Aquidneck by some antinomian zealots in company with a group of substantial Massachusetts people. The latter were marked only by their willingness to associate with the excommunicated in a migration which was not authorized by the Bay Colony. Within a year, however, there occurred a secession led by the former Massachusetts magistrate, William Codington, which resulted in the founding of Newport at the opposite end of the island.

to describe members of the Governor's Council. By the end of the seventeenth century these colonies all had Justices of the Peace who would be called Magistrates. In Rhode Island "Commissioners" were never as such judicial officers, the term applying rather to the representatives of the towns in the Assembly after 1651: but in Connecticut, for a brief interval, Commissioners were those who held particular courts outside the three river towns. Cf. American Legal Records IV, xiii and note. The Rhode Island Assistants did not become a separate legislative house until May, 1696, R.I.C.R. III, 313.

But if men refuse that which is but common humanity between man and man, then to compel such unreasonable persons to a reasonable way, we agree that the 5 disposers shall have power to compel him either to choose two men himself, or if he refuse, for them to choose two men to arbitrate his cause; then to see their determination performed and the faultive to pay the Arbitrators for their time spent in it: But if those four men do not end it, then for the 5 disposers to choose three men to put an end to it, and for the certainty hereof, we agree the major part of the 3 disposers to choose the 3 men, and the major part of the 3 men to end the cause having power from the 5 disposers by a note under their hand to perform it, and the faultive not agreeing in the first to pay the charge of the last, and for the Arbitrators to follow no employment till the cause be ended without consent of the whole that have to doe with the cause." R.I.C.R. I, 29.

7There are some few items in the Early Records of the Town of Providence XV, 1-10, but the entry is simply one of appearance and award given. Arbitration was the frequent course of litigants after the establishment of a rudimentary court system for the mainland and island settlements, but this is of course not a peculiar characteristic of seventeenth century Rhode Island. Cf. "Aquidneck Quarter Court Records" in Chapin, op. cit., and Records of the Court of Trials, op. cit., passim.
The more secular minded appear to have joined in this movement, which gave Coddington a better vantage point from which to develop his plans to secure a proprietary title over both settlements. Nevertheless it was possible for the two groups to reunite, in March of 1640, under one government, with Coddington as chief magistrate. At most their differences had been personal in origin, and there were no pronounced contrasts between their respective legal or governmental arrangements. Despite all the theocratic overtones in the first recorded minutes of the Pocasset settlement, the inhabitants soon declared that they were bound by the laws of King Charles. Coddington is supposed to have taken with him to Newport his biblical notions of government, but there also, in November, 1639, the settlers agreed that they were "Natural subjects to our Prince, and subject to his Laws." In each town the freemen met in quarter courts for general legislative purposes until the reunion of the inhabitants of the whole island in March of 1640. Three months before this event it had been resolved by Newport to make its March meeting an occasion for the readmission of certain Pocasset inhabitants to the "body politique" and to have an election of officers at that time. By way of deference to the sensibilities involved it was arranged to choose a Governor and half of the Assistants from one town while the Deputy Governor and the remaining half of the body of magistrates were to be selected from the other. By carrying through these constitutional measures at Newport, the islanders laid the foundations upon which was built the later governmental structure of all Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

8 R.I.C.R. I, 70. This declaration followed upon the successful assertion of influence by Anne and Thomas Hutchinson, and Samuel Gorton, in April 1639. The next month Coddington took his party to found Newport. There is no need to exaggerate the importance of scriptural titles; despite the early indications that judgments were to be in accordance with the "word of God," there is no record of any specific invocation. However, Andrews (Colonial Period II loc. cit.) and Richman (ibid. cit. I, 127-140) stress the theocratic pretensions of Coddington, and each sees the revolution of Gorton and the Hutchisons as a triumph of law over inspired personal rule. The events do not point at all clearly to this effect. It does not appear from the records that Coddington ever governed alone either at Pocasset or at Newport before the union of 1647, which he admittedly did not like. It would appear rather that in both of the island settlements the whole body of the freemen always had much to say about government. Cf. Arnold, History I, 130-131, and R.I.C.R. I, 27-31, 63-64.

9 This Newport declaration of the Coddington group would seem to be just as important as the preceding one made at Pocasset. It appears in R.I.C.R. I, 93.

10 For Rhode Island the work of the Newport Court of Election in 1640 is comparable in importance to the drafting of the "Fundamental Orders" for Connecticut in 1639. Cf. R.I.C.R. I, 100-102, and The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut (Conn. Tercentenary Pamphlets XX). As events developed, the Newport arrangements were the bases for a negotiated union with the mainland settlements in 1647 under the broad allowances of the Williams charter of 1644. Later, Dr. John Clarke of Newport was to draw up the petition for the royal charter of 1663 which, like the Connecticut grant from the king in 1662, ratified in the main the form of government worked out by the settlers themselves.

11 R.I.C.R. I, 65-66. The principal officer of the courts was not called the Sheriff until 1671. It was at that time ordered that anyone chosen to be Sergeant or Sheriff must qualify by knowing how to read and to write. Cf. R.I.C.R. II, 399-400.


13 The Secretary had been ordered to serve as a prosecutor, and for each failure to perform his duty he was supposed to forfeit forty shillings. R.I.C.R. I, 95-96.
Newport they had ordered that, added to the quarterly meetings of the inhabitants, there should be a session of "Judge and Elders" on the first Tuesday of every July to hear and determine "all such causes as shall be presented." The constitution making of the next year made this last order superfluous.

The Court of Election of 1640—for the whole island—eliminated the traces of religiosity when it ruled "that the Chief Magistrate of the Island shall be called Governor, and the next Deputy Governor, and the Rest of the Magistrates Assistants; and this to stand for a decree." It was further "agreed and ordered that the Governor and Assistants are invested with the offices of the justices of the Peace, according to the Law." In May provision was made for these magistrates "and Jurors" to hold "particular Courts" on the first Tuesday of each month, one at Newport and another at Portsmouth (quondam Pocasset), with full power to judge and determine "all such cases and actions as shall be presented." However, in August there was made a distinction between these monthly courts for each town, which the local magistrates were to hold regularly with a jury, and the quarter courts for the whole island, which were to be in session the day before each of "the two Parliamentarie (or Generall) Courts" of March and October, as well as on the first Tuesday in January and the first Tuesday in July. Only in these quarter courts could there be tried any matter of "Life and Limb." 10

With all these provisions for courts the structure appears much too elaborate for two communities which listed together only sixty freemen on March 16, 1641. They could have been anticipating a period of very rapid growth or they might have been concerned with the importance of the propaganda value in England and New Eng-
THE PROVIDENCE FRANKLIN SOCIETY

by ROBERT J. TAYLOR

In this day of federally sponsored education, correspondence courses, and coast-to-coast radio hook-ups, it takes some imagination to appreciate the resoluteness of a handful of men who set out in 1821 to improve their knowledge of chemistry. They had no simplified textbook, no erudite professor. To give each other mutual aid, they founded a society which was to last one hundred years, and which contributed to the cultural life of Providence in many different ways. The Providence Franklin Society sponsored courses of public lectures; it gave substantially to the Athenaeum building fund; it brought prominent scientists here as speakers; and it participated in the movement for a free public library. Among its members were leaders in politics, education, manufacturing, law, and medicine.

The men who organized the society probably had no dreams of the influence which their institution would have; or if they did, they did not record them. The history of the society begins officially on April 10, 1821, when a constitution was drawn up and officers were elected for the Philosophical Association, the name first adopted by the group. According to the recollection of one of the early members, several men had been meeting informally before this at the home of Joseph Balch, a druggist on South Main Street; later they rented a room from Christopher Burr on Benefit Street. At the first formal meeting in April the officers elected were William T. Grinnell, president; Daniel S. Lawrence, secretary; Charles Hadwen, treasurer; and Stanford Newell and Owen Mason, general committee. Grinnell owned a paint and hardware store on South Main Street, and must have been a substantial citizen, for in 1833 he was one of two men chosen by the town council to meet President Jackson at New York and accompany him to Providence. In 1831 Grinnell received an

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1Records of the Providence Franklin Society, III, May 9, 1871. MS. in the Rhode Island Historical Society. Except for the first volume, pages of the records are not numbered.

2Ibid., 1, 1.

3Rhode Island Historical Society Proceedings, 1878-79 (Providence, 1879) p. 94.
honorary M.A. from Brown University. He served as president of the society from its inception in 1821 until his death in 1835. Stanford Newell, a member of the Providence Association of Mechanics and Manufacturers, ran an iron foundry and later manufactured cotton machinery. Owen Mason had a shoe store on North Main Street, and in his spare time performed chemical experiments in his rooms. Members of his household were reportedly relieved when he transferred his experiments to the rooms of the society. Mason was a member for a time of the Providence School Committee, a founder of the Rhode Island Horticultural Society, and a director of the Providence Athenaeum.

Although the minutes of the society state that a constitution was adopted, no hint is given of its provisions; indeed, the minutes in the early years are almost always exasperatingly brief, for the founders had no suspicion that they were making local history. The organization went by the name of the Philosophical Association for almost two years, but by the end of 1822, members thought it desirable to secure a charter from the General Assembly. The committee appointed to draft the charter recommended changing the name to the Franklin Association. In December, 1822, the membership voted unanimously to adopt the Chemical Association, and at the next meeting the organization reconsidered the question and chose the permanent name—"The Providence Franklin Society"—and under this name it was incorporated by the General Assembly on January 28, 1823.

Listed as incorporators besides Grinnell, Lawrence, Hadwen, Newell and Mason, were Massa Bassett, Loring D. Chapin, Joseph Balch, Jr., William T. Smith, and George Baker. Of these, Baker was to achieve the greatest prominence in the community. He was in the jewelry business on North Main Street and as a sideline rented chronometers to ships. Electricity was his scientific specialty. At one time and another he was president, director, and trustee of the Providence Mutual Insurance Company, president of the Mechanics Association,
pare themselves adequately. After Balch’s paper, there followed in order lectures on light and heat, affinities, oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen, carbon, sulphur and phosphorus, alkalies, acids, vegetable substances, animal substances, earths, water, fermentation, galvanism, atmospheric air, combustion, etc. For the most part the minutes of the society are content with a bare listing of lecture titles, but the one on hydrogen is described in enough detail to show the nature of these lectures:

Mr. Chapin delivered a lecture on Hydrogen, which subject was illustrated by obtaining the principle of Hydrogen free from its combination with Oxygen, and burning it, issuing from a tube attached to the vessel in which it was procured. A bladder was filled with the gas, and the gas pressed through a stop-cock, into soap bubbles, which rose by their specific levity, these on applying a light exploded: the bladder being partly inflated with atmospheric air, the intonation was much louder. The subject was further explained, by obtaining Hydrogen combined with carbon and Phosphorus, which combinations were distinctly Carbonized and Phosphorized Hydrogen gas; they were burned under different circumstances, exhibiting some pleasing and interesting appearances.

Obviously, demonstration was the core of these lectures, and the society began early to accumulate apparatus for illustrative purposes, most of the money for purchases coming probably from the semi-annual tax on members. Evidently the amount of apparatus grew rapidly, for beginning in May, 1822, a committee of two was appointed every four weeks to arrange and keep in order the apparatus belonging to the association. This practice continued for a long period, and occasionally the entire membership devoted an evening to cleaning and arranging the equipment. About two years later, the treasurer was authorized to obtain a loan of $200 to buy more apparatus, since the society wished to take advantage of William Grinnell’s proposed trip to Europe. The members also voted to insure the equipment they already had. Thus the “philosophical apparatus,” as it was called, became the nucleus of the society’s collections, which were to grow greatly in size and diversity with the passing years.

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[12]Ibid., I, 1-6.
[14]Ibid., I, 5.
[15]Ibid., I, 57.
[16]Ibid., I, 10.
[17]Ibid., I, 21.
[18]Ibid., I, 12.
[19]Ibid., I, 40-41, 50-51.

Most of the additions to the collections came after 1826 and may be more appropriately discussed later, but in addition to the accumulation of apparatus, this period saw the beginning of two other divisions of the collections. On June 4, 1822, after a lecture on mineralogy by Loring D. Chapin, it was resolved that “It shall be the duty of each member to present to the association such specimens of minerals as he may be able to obtain in three weeks from this time.” Here was the beginning of the mineralogical cabinet, which grew ultimately to contain several thousand specimens. And a few months later, the library of the association had its official inception with the resolution that each member deposit at the laboratory on loan scientific books to be under the care of a librarian chosen by the members.

The society was not exclusively concerned with self-improvement, for even as early as July, 1822, the members were making plans for a public exhibition, which was actually held on October 23. The program consisted of six lecture demonstrations upon subjects already presented to the society. Owen Mason led off with “Crystalization and Affinity,” followed by D. S. Lawrence and L. D. Chapin on “Electricity,” Sanford Newell on “Hydrogen,” Joseph Balch, Jr., on “Oxygen,” George Baker on “Light and Heat,” and William T. Grinnell on “Combustion.” Apparently these first efforts at public education were entirely successful, and the following year a series of similar lectures was given before the apprentices of the Mechanics Association, the association paying the costs for the course. Since several of the founders of the Franklin Society were also members of the Mechanics Association, it was probably through their suggestion that the two groups so cooperated. This was but the first of several times when the two organizations worked together for their mutual benefit.

By 1823 the society had moved from Christopher Burr’s building on Benefit Street to rooms hired from Truman Beckwith on South Main Street. For a time the society continued with its weekly lectures given by members appointed well in advance, but in the years 1825 and 1826 interest lagged, and the minutes become spotted with tell-
tale records such as “no quorum present” and “no business transacted.” Perhaps the first sign of decay was a resolution in January 1825 permitting the lecturer to invite as many spectators to his lecture as he wished. Increasingly often no lecturers at all were appointed, but a general topic for discussion was proposed for the next meeting. Thus a discussion of “caloric” was on the docket for six meetings, competing feebly with the secretary’s entries of “no quorum present.” On October 10, 1826, the organization shook off its lethargy and resolved the following: “Encouraged by the success that has hitherto attended our efforts to obtain a knowledge of the Science of Chemistry, and anxious of enlarging the usefulness of our institution, it is expedient that its object should be extended so as to embrace the sciences generally and general literature.” With this resolution the Franklin Society entered upon its second phase, which lasted until the Civil War period.

Besides broadening the aims of the society, the members decided to make an effort to get “men of talents” into the organization so that the enlarged program would be possible. At the next meeting fourteen new members were propounded, and soon afterwards the admission fee was reduced from five dollars to three. The society returned to its planned lecture system and the titles of subsequent lectures reveal the change that had taken place. Dr. Richard Brownell delivered a “rapid sketch of the general constitution of man, and the vital principle;” and Dr. S. B. Tobey lectured on the circulation of the blood. In 1828 Josiah Lawton gave an introductory talk on botany. In 1829 Dr. Joseph Mauran lectured on phrenology; Samuel Eddy vindicated the use of certain words used by New Englanders; W. H. Patten talked on prejudices against law; and William Grinnell discussed the proposed charter for city government. In 1830 Albert Gorton Greene lectured on sculpture and statuary.

The names of the lecturers suggest that “men of talents” had been secured. Doctors Mauran and Tobey were both leading physicians, Tobey being also chancellor of Brown from 1834 until his death in 1867 and one of the founders of the Rhode Island Hospital. Albert

29Ibid., 1, 68.
30Ibid., 1, 88.
31Ibid., passim.
32Biographical details on Mauran and Tobey from the *R. I. Biographical Cyclopaedia* (Providence, 1881) pp. 263-64, 330.
Gorton Greene was a prominent judge and a president of the Historical Society. The years following 1826 brought into the organization many leading citizens; a few names will suffice to suggest the diversity of professions represented. Among the most notable were Zachariah Allen, inventor, author of books on the transmission of power, a founder of the second Athenaeum, a trustee of Brown, and superintendent of the construction of Butler Hospital; 24 Moses Brown Lockwood, teacher at the Friends School, member of the Providence School Committee, manufacturer, and director of a bank and an insurance company; 25 Joseph K. Angell, prominent lawyer and writer on legal matters; 26 and Walter R. Danforth, city council member, mayor, and customs collector for the Port of Providence. 27

Somewhat later the society included on its rolls Charles S. Bradley, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and later professor of law at Harvard; Amos Perry, educator, consul at Tunis, and secretary and librarian of the Historical Society; Merrick Lyon, principal of the University Grammar School, member of the School Committee, and a trustee of Brown; Rev. Edwin M. Stone, Unitarian minister, historian, and biographer; and Seth Padelford, governor of the State from 1869 to 1873. 28 Other important names could be added, too, though it should not be concluded that the society had no room for ordinary citizens as well. In 1830 the number of resident members was forty-nine; in 1834, fifty-three; and in 1857, seventy-six. 29 Perhaps the peak was reached in 1878 when one historian gave the total membership as being over three hundred. 30 The term “resident member” resulted from a classification of the membership made in 1828 into resident, corresponding, and honorary members. The first honorary members elected were Col. Francis Peabody of Salem, Massachusetts, and Prof. John De Wolf, Jr., of Bristol. 31 Later the

honorary members included Benjamin Silliman, famous chemistry professor at Yale, and Francis Wayland, president of Brown. Corresponding members were admitted from as far away as Manila and Canton. The relations between Silliman and the society were particularly cordial, for in 1824 he was sent a brooch of “Bristol amethyst and fine gold” in recognition of “mutual acts of courtesy;” and in 1830 a brief history of the society was sent to him for inclusion in his journal. 32

Besides the diversification of lecture subjects and the addition of many new members, the growing size of the collections testified to the new vigor of the society. Some of the most important additions were in natural history. To the members’ own collections of minerals were added a collection given by Steuben Taylor in 1824 and another of one hundred sixty specimens of Derbyshire minerals and fossils in 1828. 33 By 1876 the mineral cabinet contained some five thousand specimens, exclusive of two special collections—the Jackson collection of Rhode Island rocks and minerals and the Reynolds collection of ores. 34 In 1827 Miss Betsy Earle presented the society with a collection of shells and an idol from the Sandwich Islands, thus originating two important branches of the collections. By 1876 the section on conchology contained a nearly complete collection of Rhode Island shells as well as two hundred species from all over the world. 35 Captain Aborn, a corresponding member of the society, made notable additions to the South Sea Island material, and in time this collection was unusual in its richness, containing war clubs, lances, idols, canoes, and other objects used by the natives. The society also accumulated insect specimens, herbaria of the plants of Rhode Island, Providence, and other places, and specimens of birds, the latter numbering three hundred by 1876.

Donations poured in upon the society so rapidly in 1828 and 1829 that the organization, in true scientific spirit, resolved that each important contribution should be turned over to a committee which would write a report for the membership on the scientific significance of the gift. This practice was followed for years. And it was also

24Ibid., p. 259-61.
29Charter and By-Laws for the Prov. Franklin Soc., for the years 1830, 1834, and 1857.
31Records of the P.F.S., I, 111.
32Ibid., 63, 135.
33All information on donations is taken from the ms. record of donations kept by the society. MS. in R. I. Hist. Soc.
34Records of P.F.S., II, Jan., 1876.
resolved in 1829 that printed instructions be drawn up and given to
ship captains and other likely persons to guide them in collecting
material for the society. Nor was apparatus for the physical sciences
lack of as the number of donations in natural history increased.
In 1830 Colonel Peabody donated "a handsome set of electrical
tubes;" in 1833 Crawford Allen gave $150 to buy "a set of instruc-
tions to illustrate the mechanical powers;" and in 1835 John Farnum
presented a solar microscope. William Grimnell in 1833 gave $500,
which was to be invested and the income used to purchase chemical
and physical apparatus; at his death the society received another $500
to be used in a similar way. As with the natural history material,
there has remained no catalog of the society's apparatus, but a listing
in 1861 of the ten most important pieces of equipment is suggestive:
1. an 'electrical machine with other electrical apparatus sufficient for
   a full course of experiments in frictional electricity'
2. an air pump
3. a "large pneumatic trough, with suit of glass receivers"
4. "Atwoods machine"
5. "Copper gas holders and oxy-hydrogen blow-pipe"
6. an analytical balance with weights
7. apparatus illustrating the principles of mechanics
8. "Wightman's model of the steam engine"
9. a model of a hydraulic press
10. tools and materials for the preservation of natural history specimens

Not everything that found its way into the society's collections was
of purely scientific interest. Besides numerous coins, more or less rare,
all sorts of curios were deposited in the cabinets. One suspects that
householders cleaning out their garrets and hating to throw away good
things relieved their consciences by sending their mementos to the
society rather than to the trash heap. Thus the donation book lists
"a curious specimen of radish root," a box made from the wood of the
Gaspee, specimens of stones from the Waterloo battleground, and
as the crowning glory perhaps, a chip from the rock on which Captain
Cook was allegedly killed.

The growth in size and diversity of the collections made it expedient
to divide the members into departments or committees, each devoted

38 Ibid., I, 121-22.
39 Ibid., II, May 21, 1861.

to some special pursuit. In 1832 eight departments were set up: zoology, botany, geology and mineralogy, conchology, history and
antiquities, mechanics and useful arts, fine arts, and miscellaneous.
From time to time new departments were added and older ones were
 dropped so that the listing of them in the minutes of annual meetings
indicates clearly the changing scientific interests of the Franklin
Society. In 1833, for example, a department of phrenology (one of
the scientific fads of the early nineteenth century) was added, but it
was dropped some seven years later. As interest in zoology increased,
sub-departments of entomology and ornithology appeared, and by
1858 they were listed along with their parent as full-fledged depart-
ments, as was the department of herpetology. This same year brought
an end to the departments of fine arts and agriculture, the latter hav-
ing been first formed in 1844. In 1859 the biological sciences had
everything their own way, new departments being created in anatomy
and physiology, mammalogy, ichthyology, articulata, and micro-
graphy; and in 1860 came departments in crustacea, mollusca, and
radiata. It is worth noting that the department of micrography did
some work in micro-photography, its photographs of the scales of the
pond shiner being supposedly the first examples of such work in
Providence. 40

NOTICE

The Rhode Island Historical Society wishes to continue to expand
its genealogical collection of southern New England families. Through
the generosity of the Genealogical Society of Utah we are at this
time able to do this by means of microfilm.

Many family records have been kept for generations in manuscript
form; but since they are unpublished, they are not available to search-
ers. If anyone has such records, we shall be pleased if they will notify
us. We can then arrange to have them microfilmed for our library.
GODFREY MALBONE'S ARMORIAL SILVER

by Richard LeBaron Bowen

[concluded from April, 1950, v. 9, no. 2, p. 51]

MALBON ARMS

The best account of the Malbon family is in Hall's Nantwich (Nantwich, 1883). It does not give a chart pedigree of the family, but gives a great deal of information about various members for a considerable period. It says that arms, or, two bendlets componé argent and gules, are on the memorial of Thomas Malbon of Bradley, who died in 1658.

Ormerod, in his History of Chester, III, p. 318, states that the ancient arms of the Malbons of Bradley Hall, or, two bendlets componé argent and gules, were disallowed by Dugdale in the Visitations of 1663/4. This is not a true statement of fact for the arms disallowed were or, a bend counter-componé argent and gules.

E. Alfred Jones in his article in Antiques describes the arms on the Malbone mug as or, two bendlets gobony ermine and gules and adds that these arms of Malbone were granted in 1683 to George Malbon of Bradley, Cheshire.

The 1613 Cheshire Visitations has a pedigree of Malbon, but no arms. In the 1663 Cheshire Visitations is the following five-generation pedigree, beginning with a William Malbon of Bradley and ending with a George, born c. 1649, which was disallowed by Sir William Dugdale, Norroy King of Arms.

MALBON

Arms: Or, a bend counter-componé argent and gules.

No proof made of these Arms.

William Malbone of Bradley = Catherine, a widow 19 Eliz.

George Malbon =

Thomas Malbon =

George Malbon of Bradley = Katharine da. of Thomas = Elizabeth

born c. 1610 2wife

Admon. (Chester) 1679

George born c. 1649

[Cheshire Visitation Pedigrees, 1663, Pub. of Harleian Soc.
(London, 1941) XCIII, p. 75.]

1950] Godfrey Malbone’s Armorial Silver 85

Dr. Arthur Adams, F.S.A., librarian of Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., who edited20 the Cheshire Visitations Pedigrees, 1663, says that the 1613 and the 1663 Visitations Pedigrees do not piece together; at least he cannot tell where the man who begins the 1663 pedigree belongs in the 1613 pedigree. In the original official 1663 Visitations book in the College of Arms, London, he found a note on the margin of the page (apparently referring to the statement that no proof was made of the arms), “See Book of Grants III.”

In LXVI (1915) of the Harleian Society Publications, entitled "Grantee of arms named in Doquets, and Patents to the End of the XVII Century, Preserved in the British Museum," etc., appears this: Malbon, George, of Bradley, Cheshire, 20 Aug. 1683, by Sir William Dugdale and Norroy, Harl. MS 6834, fo. 178; Grants III, fo. 205. The blazon of the arms is not given and for some unexplained reason does not appear in any of the visitations.

At the College of Arms we find that the arms granted by Dugdale and Thomas St. George on 20 Aug. 1683 to George Malbone of Bradley, Cheshire, are or, 2 bends goboné ermine and gules with Crest — a lion’s head erased or gorged with a double collar gobonated ermine and gules.

Dr. Adams interprets these records to mean that in 1683 George Malbon secured a grant of the Malbon arms referred to in 1663 as without proof of right. The cross reference in the official 1663 Visitations book in the College of Arms to the Grant book make him confident that George Malbon took a new grant, not being able to produce proof satisfactory to the Herald of a right to the arms submitted in 1663.

It would seem, nevertheless, that the grant was much in the nature of a confirmation, since the change from a bend to 2 bends is just the sort of “difference” the Heralds introduced in cases where a grant of arms approximated a coat that had been used without authority by the family to which the grant was made. Then there is the change from componé argent to goboné ermine, which has yet to be explained.

20Dr. Adams, a member of the Rhode Island Historical Society, has the distinction of being the only American to edit one of the volumes of Visitations Pedigrees published by the Harleian Society, London.
Other than giving the official blazon of the arms, the grant recorded at the College of Arms tells us nothing about George Malbon, beyond the fact that he was a person of good reputation and of competent estate to support the condition of a gentleman.

Although no proof is known to the writer, it seems probable that Peter Malbone of Virginia was of an armigerous family. Col. Godfrey Malbone was forty-three years old in 1738 when his father Peter died at Norfolk, Virginia, at the age of seventy-one. He undoubtedly knew from his father the name of his grandfather and the place in England where he lived.

It would seem from his Virginia will, dated 1737, that Peter Malbone was a man of considerable wealth and possessions. His bequests included two lots with the houses, etc., situated on Main Street, Norfolk, Va.; a small house with kitchen, smoke house, store, milk house, stable, garden, and other conveniences on the land next adjoining the old Court House; land, on which the old Court House stands, with buildings and improvements; land and houses next this parcel; two lots of land in Church Street with the buildings and improvements; land, held “for lives,” from Peter Godfrey; a plantation called “Walnut Cod;” household furniture; horses and cattle and stock in Princess Anne County, negro slaves, etc. (Malbone Papers.)

Peter Malbone’s first wife was Elizabeth, whose maiden name is unknown. His second wife’s name was Margaret. His first son, Godfrey, born in Princess Anne County, Virginia, was perhaps named after his grandfather who may have been a Godfrey. His second son was named George (which may be significant or merely coincidental), and his third son Peter, probably named after his father.

When Colonel Malbone ordered his armorial silver made in England in 1742, he must have sent the silversmith a drawing in colors of these arms for the engraved Malbone arms are complete in every detail, even to the tinctures. The arms are those of Malbon, Bradley, Cheshire, granted in 1683, with 2 bends instead of a bend and the compone argent changed to goboné (compone) ermine.

As for his wife’s family, Colonel Malbone certainly knew that their arms were those of Scott Hall, co. Kent, for her brother, Judge Edward Scott, was the owner of the ancient Scott Pedigree Roll showing the impaled arms of nine generations of this family. Just how the wrong Scott arms came to be engraved on this silver will never be known. Probably what happened was that Colonel Malbone thought that these arms were so well known that he simply specified that “Scott Hall” arms be engraved on the silver and that the silversmith, unable to find any such arms, used the only Scott coat shown in Guillim’s Display of Heraldry (1724).

When the chest of Malbone armorial silver arrived in Newport, both families must have been very much upset over this mistake, but the silver was bought and paid for, and there was nothing that could be done about it.

Forty-one years ago, in 1909, the descendants of Hon. William Hunter erected a tablet on the south wall opposite the Malbone pew in Trinity Church to the memory of Colonel Godfrey Malbone and his wife. On this tablet are the arms of Malbone impaling those of the wrong Scott family, as shown on the 1742 Malbone silver. In the interest of historical accuracy, these Scott arms should be replaced by the correct arms.

FAMILY LETTERS

Among the Malbone Papers are many important letters that have never been published. The following letters tie in with the period of the Malbone armorial silver and are of sufficient historical interest to warrant their publication here.

The first was written from Newport, Rhode Island, by Katherine Malbone to her son Godfrey Malbone, Jr., then a bencher in Lincoln’s Inn, London, England. It starts off with the parents’ usual lament about their children not writing to them, in which respect, Godfrey, Jr., seems to have established some sort of a record, for he did not write to his father or mother for eight months, which if nothing else, proves conclusively that this particular student was not out of funds.

Dear Godfrey,

You complain in your letter in February of not hearing from none of your friends and now it is 8 months since you have written to any body here or to your father or my self or to writing to you think it not for want of affection and be not negligent and not write to them for I am but a poor pen woman and cannot give you an account of things as I would, but fearing your sisters do not write so often as they should I take this oppor-
Godfrey Malbone's Armorial Silver [July

tunity to let you know what i can, as for ye young godfrey21, she is gone for being in consort with a Jamaica privateer they went to cartahena to ransom a prize, the governor fitted out two vessels which took her, for her consort run away your father has had such bad luck it is thought by most people he has lost forty thousand pound but he will not give over for he is now fitting out two ships [Prince of Wales and Duke of Cumberland] which i hope will be as lucky as the rest has been unlucky for we had so long a run of bad luck i hope the good is to come for your father is as anxious for you all as ever he was or he might make himself very easy, for we are now at the farm and a pleasant habitation it is which i pray you may live to enjoy, as for your brothers i think they are two as promising boys as can be but i think they are not favored with so good a master as you had when you were here what your father intends to do with tom22 i know not but i think he can not afford to send him where you are [Oxford] your father says nothing of sending for you home att present, but i hope it will not be long before you will be accomplished for new england, for it is 4 years since you left it, you say in your letter you think it will be the plesants part of your life while you are there [Oxford] but i hope to live to see your return and answer ye expectation of all your friends in making a good man as well as a brite one, i have had four children since you lefe me the last a girl23 which

21Howard M. Chapin, Rhode Island Privateers in King George's War, 1739-1748 (Providence, 1926), pp. 86, 87, tells us that the privateer Young Godfrey [Capt. Nicholas White] was owned by Godfrey Malbone and Sutton Grant. She was fitted out as a privateer in 1743 and named after Malbone's son, Godfrey Malbone, Jr.

22The sloop Young Godfrey was commanded by Capt. Nicholas White and captured the French schooner Elizabeth, 50 tons, Capt. Louis Calmes, off the west end of the island of Cuba. She brought the Elizabeth, which was laden with wine and brandy into Newport during the second week in March, where on March 20, 1743, Judge Lockman declared the vessel not a prize. .

23The Young Godfrey, [still under the command of] Captain White, cruised in consort with the Jamaica privateer sloop Koulh Kan and captured a large and valuable ship which they conveyed her to Cartagena to ransom her. While on her way to Cartagena, the ship was captured by a French privateer which had been preceeded that port they encountered two French privateers of much superior force. A terrible conflict ensued in which Captain White and his crew were all cut to pieces and his vessel taken. The Koulh Kan, after being badly shot to pieces, finally had the good fortune to escape and reached the old harbor, Jamaica, on the evening of August 21, 1744.

24Son Thomas, b. 7 May 1733; d. s.p. 5 August 1754. Educated at Cambridge, Mass., where too much study is said to have undermined his health.

25This girl was Deborah, the thirteenth child, b. at Newport, 23 Nov. 1744, the record agreeing exactly with the mother's statement. She m. at Newport, 13 Sept. 1761, Dr. William Hunter. After his death she went with her children to England and died there.

The Newport Vital Records list Godfrey Malbone’s last two children as Catharine, b. 21 Oct. 1737, and Deborah, b. 23 Nov. 1744. According to Godfrey Malbone’s unexecuted will of February, 1741, Catherine Malbone was with child, and she herself says she had four born between 1741 and 1745. This unborn child must have been the first of the four, and Deborah the fourth. Trinity Church

will be a year old ye 23 of next month, the unhappy accident24 that happened ye 19 of Sept 44 of Mr. Grant Gidley, N. Codington & a stranger being blown up by gunpowder in a ware house by which they all lost their lives. Mr. D. Aroll & Colll. vyn Dike have lost their wife, and married, a gain, Aroll to H. Brinton, & vyn Dike to W. Wantas widow, as for what you write concerning your uncle turns out to be nothing but i believe he had some thos of that lady but i think she will never marry again if she should i shall be glad to call her sister for she is a wouer woman, your sister Betty is gone home with Mrs Hatty Brinley she spent the summer with us and i believe Bet will marry thare this winter, for they have contracted so graht a friendship that they can hardly live apart, as for the success we have had at Cape Breton i must leve to some better pen and conclude with senceur disers and hearty prayers for you health and happyies from your afecte Mother

Katherine Malbone

[Malbone Papers, Book E, pp. 10-12.]

In the following letter written from Newport, Rhode Island, to Godfrey, Jr., at Lincoln’s Inn, London, England, Colonel Malbone tells his son he has lost “near £50,000” since the war started and that he is fitting out two more ships. These were also lost at a cost of some £40,000 more. We now know for the first time the extent of his privetearing losses—some £90,000.

records the baptism of four Malbone children between 1737 and 1745: John, bapt. 2 May 1742; Peter, bapt. 4 July 1742; William, bapt. 21 Aug. 1743; and Deborah, bapt. 30 Nov. 1744. The first three children undoubtedly died young. The name John, as given in the printed church records, must be an error, for Godfrey Malbone already had a son John who was later his father’s executor.

26The printed accounts of this accident vary so materially that it is difficult to determine the true story. The facts seem to be that on 17 Sep. 1744 the privateer Prince Frederick, a 95-ton sloop, armed with 12 carriage and 12 swivel guns and carrying a crew of 120 men under command of Capt. John Dennis was awaiting stories of privateers, Capt. Sutten Grant, Mr. Nathaniel Grant, Jr., and John Gidley, Esq., together with Mr. Taylor, a stranger employed to look after the stores of privateers, were surveying stores in Taylor’s warehouse when a pistol was accidentially discharged, setting fire to about 500 lb. of gunpowder in several casks. The blast blew away the roof and the planks on the sides and end and discharged 50 grenades and 60 powder flasks, a large jar filled with 50 lb. of powder and all manner of instruments of death and a number of muskets and pistols.

All of the men were blown out of the building and Captain Grant, Mr. Coddington, and Mr. Gidley, three of the town’s principal citizens, were either killed outright or later died of their wounds.

Mr. Coddington was a grandson of Governor Coddington and held many offices in the colony: Mr. Grant, a native of Scotland, and a respectable merchant of Newport, was the maternal grandfather of the late Christopher G. Chaplin, and Mr. Gidley, an enterpriser merchant, was the son of Judge Gidley, of the Vice-Admiralty Court. (Chapin, Rhode Island Privateers, p. 3; Peterson, op. cit. p. 67.)
Son Godfrey

This comes by Capt Tilgham and to acknowledge the Receipt of yours by Capt Addams since which I have not bin favourd with a Lofne from you Although their is Several Ships Arrived at Philadelphia & New York. I answered Your Letters fully (via) of Boston which I hope you have Received: I have had very ill Success Since the War commenced

I have Lost nigh fifty Thousand pounds our currency—however I am now a making a Vigorous Attempt I have the half commander29 a Large Sloop29 Wilhig Higons comander of which I own the one half of now at Sea & Two fine New Ships now a fitting I own the Whole of one22 of the Ships & half the other Capt Thos Breever Commands one [The Prince of Wales] & Capt Benjn Cranston the other [The Duke of Cumberland] they will carry Upwards of twenty carriages & thirty Swiffls Guns Each. I shall have a hard Tasque to fitt them out and shall be much Stratted for they will cost a great of money, I am in hopes this will find you at the Temple or sum of the courts & am in hopes you have so well Implied Your time that you Begin to think of coming home which I shall Expect the next year. I had Gott a horse & a Negro boy for Mr Tomlinson and the Like for you but the War prevented my sending them

29Probably the sloop Charming Betty: 80 tons, 10 carriage and 10 swivel guns; commander, Benjamin Wickham. Letters of marque were issued 30 Aug. 1729 (the third privateer commissioned from Newport, preceded by the Sloop Revenge and Virgin Queen on the 28th and 29th August respectively). The bond was £1300, and the benders were Benjamin Wickham, mariner, principal; Godfrey Malbone and Joseph Wanton, merchants, surtees, all of Newport; witnesses were Edward Scott (brother-in-law of Malbone) and James Martin. This sloop had letters of marque issued 17 June 1740, 21 July 1740, and 23 June 1744. Capt. Joshua Higgin was commander in the later year. The Captain Benjamin Cranston, named from Godfrey Malbone's daughter Elizabeth, who afterwards married Shrimpton Hutchinson, son of William and nephew of Francis Brinley of Roxbury (Howard W. Prestton, Rhode Island and the Sea (Providence, 1932), p. 100; Rhode Island Privateers, pp. 66-73).

20This was the sloop Hector: 100 tons, 80 men, 12 carriage guns; commander, William Higgins. Letters of marque were issued 1 June 1745. The bond was £1500, and the benders were William Higgins, mariner, principal; Godfrey Malbone, merchant, equipp; and Joseph Wanton, Esq., surtees; all of Newport. Witnesses were Ebenezer Richardson and James Martin. Letters of marque had previously been issued to this sloop on 21 June 1740, at which time Joseph Thornton was Commander, (Preston, op. cit. p. 111.)

21This was the ship Duke of Cumberland: 180 tons, 130 men, 20 carriage guns, 30 swivel; commander, Ben. Cranston. Letters of marque were issued 28 Nov. 1745. The bond was £1500, and the benders were Benj. Cranston, mariner, principal; Godfrey Malbone, merchant; and George Wanton, Esq., surtees; all of Newport. Witnesses were Jacob Hasey and James Martin (Ibid. p. 105).

22This was the ship Prince of Wales: 200 tons, 130 men, 22 carriage guns; commander, Thomas Brewer. Letters of marque were issued 28 Nov 1745. The bond was £1500, and the benders were Thomas Brewer, mariner, Newport, principal; Godfrey Malbone, Jahlel Brenton, merchants, Newport, and John Cole, gentleman, North Kingstown, surtees. Witnesses were Jacob Hasey and James Martin (Ibid. p. 124).
Godfrey Malbone's Armorial Silver

in them was very considerable not less as he has informed me than Forty Thousand Pounds, this heavy Loss renders your Stay at London any longer too burthensome for him & his present Circumstances will by no means admit of it, he is certainly very much embarrassed & complains that he is greatly at a loss how to raise Sterling Money to defray the Expende of your Education, being the case, You see there is a real Necessity that You should embrace the first Opportunity that presents to return to New England either in one of His Majesty's Ships of War, a Mast Ship, or Merchant-man under Convoy. It would be, I doubt not, more agreeable to your Inclination to tarry longer, but as your Father's great Losses since the Commencement of the present War with France, amounting in the whole to above Sixty Thousand Pounds, incapacitate him to support so great an Expende as must unavoidably attend your prosecuting your Studies at the Inns of Court in London, You ought & must submit to return home without Delay, unless you choose to involve him in inextricable Difficulties, or are in a Capacity to defray your own Charges, which I presume you are not. Your Father has wrote you several Letters, expressing his Desire of your Speedy Return but is apprehensive that said Letters have miscarried & it being now past doubt that the Ships above mentioned are lost, he not caring to write himself on so disagreeable a Subject requested me to do it, and I beg leave to add that your Return home is extremely desired not only by him, but also by your Mother & other Relations, who all greatly long to see you as doth in particular

Your affectionate Uncle Edward Scott

[Malbone Papers, Book E, pp. 14, 15.]

Godfrey, Malbone, Jr.,31 and his younger brother John, who was executor of his father's estate, were important merchants in Newport. John Malbone never married, but lived with Patience Greene (spinster) by whom he had six children. Just why he and Patience Greene chose to live together for a lifetime and bring a large family of children into the world without the formality of a marriage ceremony is difficult to understand.

Their third child was Edward Greene Malbone, destined to become the famous miniaturist. He never married and died of consumption in 1807 at the home of his first cousin, Robert Mackay, in Savannah, Georgia, and is buried there in the family lot in the old cemetery on South Broad Street.

31Among the many interesting letters in the Malbone Papers is one written by Godfrey Malbone, Jr., from Pomfret, Conn., 17 Dec. 1790, to his brother John Malbone at Newport, in which, among other supplies required, he asks John to "conceive to send up a few white stone chamber Pots for the Use of the pretty Ladies, the next Summer."

1950] Godfrey Malbone's Armorial Silver On 20 February 1793 when Patience Greene and oldest child George were deceased, John Malbone conveyed by deed the title to his house in Newport to his remaining heirs "for and in consideration of the affection I bear to my five children had by Patience Greene." This deed was not recorded until the day before his death, 14 October 1795.

The future miniaturist taught himself to paint by the tedious work of copying pictures whenever his time permitted. Without telling his father, he abruptly left Newport and established himself in Providence where his first commission as a painter appears to have been for a miniature of Nicholas Brown which he signed and dated 1794.

His father gave him a legal right to the name Malbone, for which Edward thanked him in the following letter:

Providence October 11th 1794

Honoured Sire

Pardon me for leaving Newport so abruptly without informing you of my intention to stay at Providence, nor would I have you think me so bigoted to ingratitude as not to wish to repay with future services the many favours I have received from you. As I thought it was highly necessary for me to do something I chose this for my first attempt which is like to prove successful as I have hitherto been fortunate enough to give general satisfaction and have met with publick approbation. I hope I may never be guilty of an action that may merit your displeasure and sincerely wish that I may soon be able to render the family those services which cannot yet be expected it shall be my fervent prayer that I may be qualified to succeed you (in that respect) before you make your exit. I must conclude with making use of that name which I shall study never to dishonour.

Your dutiful Son

[Malbone Papers.]

John Malbone Esq. Edward G. Malbone

Since the foregoing article was written, an inspection of McIntosh's Lower Norfolk Wills (1637-1710) shows that the Malbones were in Virginia at a much earlier date than is generally supposed. These early Virginia records, together with the Malbone Papers, suggest that a little research might definitely connect the Rhode Island family of Malbone with that of Cheshire, England. To illustrate: among these Norfolk wills is one of Robert Davis, dated 21 April, proved 16 June 1662, in which we find a Peter Malbone named as one of
the executors. This might be the grandfather of Godfrey Malbone of Newport whose father Peter was born in 1667 and died at Norfolk, Virginia, in 1738 at the age of 71. Godfrey Malbone’s father Peter was born five years after this Peter Malbone was named in this 1662 Davis will.

Another Norfolk will, that of Sarah Porten, wife of William Porten of Elizabeth River, dated 28 Sept. 1675, mentions “her daughter Sarah Malbone”, probably wife of Peter. Evidently her first husband had been a Godfrey for she also mentions her two sons Mathew and John Godfrey (Godfree). William Porten in his will says that his wife Sarah may dispose of her children by deed of gift or by will. Peter Malbone, father of Godfrey, in his Norfolk will dated 1737, mentions “land held for lives, from Peter Godfrey”. (Malbone Papers.)

NEWS NOTES

In addition to the monthly meetings of the Roger Williams Family Association and the Society’s program of lectures the following organizations have met at John Brown House: on January 12, Providence County Garden Club (Mr. Kenneth Simpson, speaker); January 18, Shakespearian Society; January 20, Providence League of Women Voters (Mr. William Ward Harvey, speaker); February 11, Saturday Review Club (Mr. Clarence E. Sherman, speaker); February 14, Harvard Foundation for Advanced Study (Prof. John Finley, speaker); February 15, Pottery and Porcelain Club (movies of Eighteenth Century Williamsburg); February 22, Sons of the American Revolution (Annual Meeting); March 6, Colonial Daughters of the Seventeenth Century (Mr. Clifford P. Monahan, speaker); March 10, Providence League of Women Voters (Prof. Charles P. Kindleberger, speaker); March 11, Saturday Review Club (Mr. Chesley Worthington); March 17, D. A. R., Rhode Island Independence Chapter (Miss Alice Cullen, speaker); March 28, English Speaking Union (reception to Hon. G. C. S. Corea and Mrs. Corea); March 31, Rhode Island Wellesley Club (Prof. Harriet Creighton, speaker); April 13, Providence County Garden Club (Mrs. Earle V. Harrington, speaker); April 15, D. A. R., Sarah Scott Hopkins Chapter; April 16, Block Island Historical Society (Annual Meeting); April 21, D. A. R., Independence Chapter (Mrs. Howard Kent, speaker) April 25, D. A. R., Beacon Pole Hill Chapter (Mrs. W. Russell Greenwood, speaker); April 27, Colonial Dames of Rhode Island (Mrs. Richard B. Hobart, speaker); May 16, Radcliffe Club of Rhode Island (Open House Day with tea at John Brown House.)

* * *

The Society is acquiring the microfilm of the Providence Journal from 1829 to 1885 to complement its file of films of this newspaper. In addition the library will also have a complete run of the Evening Bulletin from its beginning, the Manufacturers and Farmers Journal, and the suburban editions of the two Providence papers.

* * *

The Bulletin of the Friends Historical Association, v. 39, no. 1, Spring number, 1950, contains an article by Charles H. Nichols, Jr., on and excerpts from the letters of Harriot Peck of Coventry, Rhode Island, a Quaker school teacher in North Carolina in the 1830’s.

* * *

Of interest to genealogists are the history of two Rhode Island families: Elder John Crandall of Rhode Island and his descendants, by John Cortland Crandall and The Hoxie Family, three centuries in America, by Leslie R. Hoxie.

BOOK REVIEW


A study of the output of the printing press of Rhode Island during the eighteenth century is particularly rewarding, since little Rhody was more cosmopolitan and more broadminded than her neighbors and so her literature is more varied and interesting. In addition to the usual almanacs, official documents, and unchristian commentaries on other people’s brands of Christianity, it is pleasant to find as the seventh entry in the volume a hitherto undescribed poem on Mr. Samuel Gorton’s Ghost and such other examples of secular literature as The Virgin’s Advice; An elegy on the much lamented Death of Sarah Wanton (another newly discovered poem); Fair Rosamond (seventeenth century British ballad); a playbill for a performance at Providence in 1762; Verses on Doctor Mayhew’s Book of Observations; A Looking Glass for the Times; an invitation to “a Petrecote Frisk, to be held in the afternoon at Mrs. Goddard’s;” The Prodigal Daughter; The Renowned History of
ACCESSIONS

Gift of Franklin and Julia Cushman, a highboy, mahogany drop leaf table, slant top desk, comb back Windsor and two side chairs, belonging to Moses Brown, a field desk of Moses Brown Lockwood, a sampler of Avis Harris, an engraving of Moses Brown, a copy of a painting of the Moses Brown home, an original sketch of Moses Brown by William J. Harris.

By purchase, A catalogue of 257 splendid modern European paintings, Stoddard and Smith. (Providence, 1842.)

Gift of Harry Parsons Cross, A brief history of the colonial wars in America from 1607-1775.

From Library of Congress, State censuses taken after the year 1790 by states and territories of the United States.

From Elmer E. Chase, miscellaneous pamphlets, dealing largely with railroads.

By purchase, Isaiah Thomas, printer, patriot and philanthropist, by Clifford K. Shipton.

By purchase, microfilm of the diary of Susan Lear, 1788.


By purchase, Yankee science in the making, by D. J. Struik.


Gift of the author, Occupational marks and other physical signs, by Francesco Ronchese, M.D.

Anonymous gift, Inscriptions on stones in the Arnold graveyard on Pelham Street, Newport, R. I. (ms.)

From Mrs. John M. McGann, a doll, doll's couch, doll's chair, and trunk filled with doll's clothes, made by Mary Ann Clifford for her first granddaughter, Mary Clifford Eastman.

From Elton Manuel, Newport Tower, by Kathleen O'Loughlin.


By purchase, American silversmiths and their marks, III, by Stephen G. C. Ensko.

Gift of the author, St. George's Church, Schenectady, 2 v., by Willis T. Hanson, Jr.

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