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GEORGE L. MINER, *President*

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CARLO MAURAN

The portrait of Captain Carlo Mauran reproduced on the front cover was bequeathed to the Society by his grandson, the late Mr. Frank Mauran. Carlo Mauran, son of Joseph Carlo and Olive (Bicknell) Mauran, was born in Barrington, Rhode Island, March 12, 1779, and died in Providence on November 27, 1844. Like many Rhode Islanders of the period he went to sea at an early age. By the time he was twenty-five he was master of a vessel, and later in partnership with his brother Joseph became one of the leading merchants and ship owners of Providence.

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NATHANAEL GREENE'S LETTERS TO "FRIEND SAMMY" WARD

edited by CLIFFORD P. MONAHON and CLARKSON A. COLLINS, 3rd.

AMONG the Society's manuscripts is a group of letters written by Nathanael Greene (then a young man with no thoughts of future military greatness) to Samuel Ward, Jr., son of Rhode Island Governor Samuel Ward. These letters were written while Ward, whom Greene often addressed as "Friend Sammy," was a student at Brown University, from which he was graduated in 1771, and the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, in which Greene became a major general and Ward a lieutenant colonel.

There was a close relationship, both social and political, between the Greene and Ward families. Nathanael's brother Christopher later married Ward's sister Catharine and after her death his sister Deborah, and during the period of the letters Nathanael himself was in love with a third sister, Anne Ward.

Much of the correspondence of General Greene that has been preserved is of a later date and deals with military matters. That with "Friend Sammy," despite frequent flowery and somewhat incoherent flights into the realm of philosophy, is personal and intimate, giving an insight into Greene's character and thought when he was a young man managing the family property at Coventry, Rhode Island.

In editing, minor changes in punctuation have been made for the sake of clarity, and obvious slips of the pen have been corrected. Unfortunately some of the letters have fallen prey to the collectors of signatures. They are, however, unmistakably in Greene's hand. The letters formed a part of the Ward Papers, which were purchased by the Society several years ago.

Spell Hall. [No date]
[Coventry, R. I.]

If Coventry¹ ever was tollerable, it has now become insupportable. Nature was very sparing of her gifts in the first formation of the Globe, unless they lye conceal'd in the Bowels of the Earth, which possibly may be the Case, for the Face of Nature, seems to ware such a Ghastly Countenance, as if her Bowels was tortur'd with the most Excruciating pains, and Labourd to be delivered of some Valuable Treasure. If ever this should happen, I hope to be a Sharer, for I am sure I have sufferd enough to entitle me to a right. The Trees looks as surly, the Bushes as Sour and the Shrubs as Cross, if I happen to put my head out of Doors at any time, as if I had been their sworn Enemy. What particular spight they can have against me, I cant imagine. If they knew my pacifick disposition, I am sure they could not apprehend any injury. I am determind to Court their favour and to effect a reconciliation if possible for I like to Live in good fellowship, and more especially with things that appear so pregnant with mischief. This is agreeable to the Hottentot plan, who Worship the Devil rather than the Deity, for one they say is good and will do them no harm, the other must be prevented by kind and Courtly usage. I have but one respectful Tree on my plantation, that is a certain reverend old Oak, which has a peculiar Modesty at all Times and seems to be sensible of its condition, for when at any time he happens to be robbed of his bushy Periwig or Brawny Branches, how disconsolate and Ashamed I have seen it appear. I Love this old Oak for its Modesty and Diffidence. He has not half the Effrontry and Confidence of some of our little upstart pragmatical Shrubs that will stand and make mouths at one as they pass along, by the half hour together, and yet the old Tree is of more Value than a thousand of them. Here stop and rest a moment for I dare say you are Heartily tird, and I am sure I am Heartily Sick of such disagreeable Ideas.

Man for all his noble Nature and Dignified Reason is as Variable in his notions and feelings as any Creature perhaps in the Creation. He is perpetually falling out with him self, and sustains three or four Opposite Charactors every Day he Lives; nay very often he acts over these Charactors ten Times in a Day and is Chearful and Angry, pleased, and despairing all in the space of half an hour. In one of these fits I fell foul of poor Coventry and have sufficiently gratified my Ill Nature and now feeling a little better humourd, I propose a new Subject and that Shall be Friendship if you please.

¹In 1770 Greene was placed in charge of the family estate and forge in Coventry, Rhode Island, where he lived until the outbreak of the Revolution in 1775.

The excellence of friendship is faithfulness. The affections of the human Soul is not Copious enough to enter into a Close connexion with many Persons. Our Sentiments are so Various Our Interests so Opposite, and our Views, ends, and designs so different, that we can scarcely go hand and Glove for one Day. I should be glad to Live in good fellowship with all mankind. But here I think my self at Liberty either to interest my self or not, just as my particular Circumstances may require. But it is not so in Friendship, for there seems to be but one Soul Occupying Two Bodies, and we are so deeply Interested in Each others happiness that one cannot be afflicted without the others feeling a Sensible pain and whenever we are reduced to the Necessity of Opposing our friends happiness from some prior Connexions or particular Circumstances, it damps the ardor of our friendship and Chills the Noble passion for Benevolence. But, O how must that Mind feel that finds his Boosom friend and Brother in Soul reduc'd to the disagreeable Necessity of disappointing him in a matter that his happiness ultimately depends upon. Think then how I felt the other Day when you exprest the difficulty you found in discharging your Duty and maintaining an equal balance between your friends. I think you have too Noble a Soul to basely prostitute that confidence reposed in the most refined Delicacies of friendship, and therefore have no doubt but that youl faithfully discharge your Duty with honour and trust, according as you stand related to the Objects. I have never yet Vouchsaft to solicit one Person (that I remember) to Interest them selves in my favour in my Addresses to your Sister.² And Although I should esteem such a connexion the greatest Blessing that could attend me here, I should sooner suffer my Heart to burst than adopt such an expedient. But was I disposd, or should I ever be, to increase my Interest by a third person you would be one of the first to whom I should apply my Self. The Choice of our Friends is one of the most interesting points in Life and nothing requires more deliberation and circumspection than that of choosing a boosom friend. If we are forward of contracting an Intimacy Let our judgment first examin with whom. There are fatal consequences attending a Rash Connexion as well as real advantages in a well grounded Union. Tis not he [who] makes the highest professions or greatest promises that is to be the soonest trusted, for let us consider betimes before we are ensnared or Seduced that there are more Companions in the World than good ones. I hope if you are convinced of my Love and regard for you, it hath been rather from my Actions than

²At the time when this letter was written Greene was carrying on an unsuccessful courtship of Ward's eldest sister, Anne (Nancy). He recovered from his disappointment and married Catharine Littlefield in 1774. Nancy married Ethan Clarke in 1776.

from my professions. If you please to reflect back, and examine my conduct through every stage since our Connexion first commenced you will find I have been rather Backward than forward of contracting too great an Intimacy before we both had time and Opportunity to examine each others Dispositions and Tempers, which is absolutely necessary to lay a lasting foundation for friendship. I thought I discovered some very valuable qualities in you, although you were very young that first created in me a desire to Contract an acquaintance. As I was the Eldest³ I thought it my Business to make the first Overtures which accordingly I did and finding from acquaintance you answered my expectation, I gradually increased the freedom until time and intimacy formed a real Affection and fixed a Settled habit of friendship Which I hope may continue through all the Vicissitudes of imperfect Life, and that we may be supporters to each other in our prosperities, safeguards in our difficulties, counsellors in our Doubts, and comforters in adversities, and that you regard me as I do you. Then I shall be happy in your friendship, and it would hurt me very much if I did not think you did. It is late and I am sleepy. Therefore I'll conclude with wishing you a good Night and many Happy days.

N. Greene Jr

P.S. I have wrote to Nancy offering to stop the Correspondence if she thinks it most for her happiness. But I can't help [wishing] a continuance & yet I don't if we must part for Ever

Coventry [No date]

Dear Orator

I received your Letter of Feby 6th as you said nothing of your Journey, I take it for granted you got Home safe. I should have wrote you an answer long since but have been engaged in the pursuit of a Searover who took into his Custody a quantity of Our Rum and carried it round to Boston (contrary to the Express words of the Statute) for Trial and condemnation. The Illegality of his measures together with the Loss sustained created such a Spirit of Resentment That I have devoted almost the whole of my Time in devising and carrying into execution measures for the recovery of my Property and punishing the offender—so much for the excuse.

I observe in your Letter the Strongest inclinations for obtaining a large fund of useful Knowledge to be drawn from reading History. If we act only for our selves, to neglect the study of history is not pru-

³Greene, who was born at the family homestead in the Potowomut section of Warwick, Rhode Island, in 1742, was fourteen years older than his young friend Samuel Ward, Jr.

dent: if we are entrusted with the cares of others it is not just. Ignorance when it is voluntary, is criminal, and he may be properly charged with evil, who refuses to learn how he might prevent it.

There is no part of History so generally useful as that which relates to the progress of the human mind, the gradual improvement of Reason, the successive advances of science, the Vicissitudes of Learning and ignorance, which are the light and darkness of thinking Beings, the extinction and beginning of Arts and all the revolutions of the intellectual world. Accounts of Battles and invasions seem to be the peculiar Business of Military Men, and the useful and elegant Arts should be the study of those who are to Govern the state and form the manners of Mankind.

I cannot help cautioning you against a practice which by habit may be so strongly confirmed as to prove prejudicial to your interest and Reputation. I mean that of being so confined to your Books as to neglect the converse of mankind. The faculty of interchanging our thoughts with one another, has always been represented by moral writers, as one of the noblest privileges of Reason, and it is that which more particularly sets mankind above the Brute Creation.

If we consider the whole scope of the creation that lies within our View, as in the natural and corporeal part, we shall perceive throughout a certain correspondence of parts, a similitude of Operations and unity of design; So in the moral and intellectual World we shall observe in Spirits and minds of men a principle of Attraction, whereby they're drawn together into communities, friendships and the various species of Society. This corresponding Social appetite in human Souls is the great Spring and source of moral Actions: it inclines us to an intercourse with our Species; and produces that sympathy in our Natures, whereby we feel the pains and joys of our fellow creatures. The benefit of conversation if there was nothing else in it, would be no inconsiderable improvement, for discourse creates a light within us, and dispels the gloom and confusion of the Mind; it raises Fancy, reinforces reason, and gives the production of the mind a Better colour.

Think not my dear friend because I caution you against evil, I think you already vicious. Before Habits are established, Friendship conferred and life planned into method, The infant mind is susceptible to every impression, whether good or evil exhibited to its view. The care of education is a work of the highest moment, as all the advantages or miscarriages of a mans life are in a great measure dependent on it. It is the duty of Parents in particular and Friends in general to infuse into the untainted youth early notions of Justice and honour, that so all possible advantages of good parts may not take an evil turn nor be

perverted to base and unworthy purposes.

The mind is to be made obedient to discipline and pliant to reason, while it is yet tender, and easy to be bowed but if we suffer ill principles to get ground on infancy, vice to debauch, or passion to pervert reason in that unguarded age; when we have once made an ill Child, it is foolish expectation to promise our selves he will prove a good man. Shall we wonder afterwards to taste the waters bitter, when we our selves have first poisond the fountain.

Study to be wise and learn to be prudent. Learning is not Virtue but the means to bring us to an acquaintance with it. Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and Knowledge without integrity is dangerous and Dreadful. Let these be your motives to Action through Life, the relief of the distressed, the detection of frauds, the defeat of oppression, and diffusion of happiness. Then shall you appear before God and men like Apples of Gold in pictures of Silver.

Men of great talents by nature and polisht by Art, if to these accomplishments be added that of a general acquaintance with mankind, are the most dangerous persons to be connected with unless they steadily persevere in the practice of Virtue. For they know the secret avenues to the human Heart and having the power to make the worse appear the better reason we are often betrayd before we conceive our selves in any Danger.

I love you with a brotherly love and wish your welfare, my best respects to your whole Family.

N. G. Jr.

It is not customary for me to write so bad a hand, but make no doubt if you take pains you'll find out the Contents

Now for Popes part: The Colonel is well very well, but much out of humour, the reasons I have not room to explain. The Squire & his Lady are both tolerably well together with their Children. They are all in Health at Potowomut except Perry who has been unwell all Winter with what the Vulgar call the Spleen. Jacob has lately been Sick but is restord to Health. We had a Letter from Christopher dated 26 Decem in good Health & high Spirits in Maryland.

Coventry September 24 1770

Dear Sir

I was much pleas'd Last Evening at the receipt of two of your Letters, but Inconceivably more so in Examining the Contents, Which represented to me an Author possesst of a fertile invention under the regulation of a Judgment that indicated and promis'd many advantages to Society if Virtue continued to be the Rule of your Conduct. Although I express my Sentiments freely, yet think not they flow from the Corrupt

fountain of Flatery or Insincerity, for that of all things I most abhor. For I verily believe its our incumbent duty to give Merit its due praise, and its also the duty of those that receives it not to Suffer their minds to be filld with Vanity and Ostentation upon which consideration I was induc'd to Speak my Oppinion being under no apprehension but that it would be properly receiv'd and prudently applied. Although I much admir'd your production Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee. That is for being so unmercifully severe upon poor Self. Oh poor Self, is there no one appears to defend thy Cause. If there is not, yet shalt thou be Conquerer. For as when a man undertakes to Quarrel with his Victuals is Convinc'd by Experience of his imprudence by the Injury he finds he has sustain'd, so Shall they be convinc'd who form a Resolution to Contend with Self properly considered. Therefore I must beg leave to dissent from you with respect to the Exercise of our Selfish principles for I do not consider them in that criminal point of Light that they appear to you in, and I apprehend if you'll only suffer yourself a moments recollection and consider what is the Spring of all Action you'll find they stand Bottom'd upon Self. But what renders many of our Actions Criminal is the unlawful Gratification of our passions and Sensual appetites to the great Injury and detriment of the more noble purposes of Self, and that Injury We sustain in Consequence of our preferring a present Scheme of pleasures to a future state of Happiness. This false Estimate Springs from our consulting our passions and appetites and not our Reason Which would inform us better. Its apprehended by some that all Religious acts are devoid of Self but I am so far from thinking them so that I consider them the most Selfish acts in Nature. For as Religion is Calculated as a medium for us to obtain Salvation by, The preservation of our Souls being a Subject of the highest Concern, Therefore there is no one Subject that we are so deeply Interested in as the discharge of all our Religious duties. For what can a man be Religious for but to recommend him self to the Favor of His God by which he expects (if he Succeeds) Everlasting Happiness. Thus we shall find by Examination that all our Civil, moral, and Religious obligations are discharged upon the Same principles. For if a man takes upon him the Sacred Carector of a Minister of the Gosple by which he is Expos'd to many perils dangers and distresses moreover he is Obliged to Walk Blameless with respect to the Laws of his Country. It is expected also that his Conduct should be so uniform as to Convince us from practical observations that he possesses every Human Virtue. Further more he must punctually Keep Inviolat the Moral and Divine Laws and all these things he is Strictly confin'd to the observance of. Now is not such a Restricted Life incompatible with

the present gratification of our Sensual appetites. It must be allow'd it is. From hence many have taken Occasion to say that such acts do not Spring from that common Selfish principle but if you'll Search from the Effects to the Cause you'll find their Origin to be at the Same Fountain. It is only their Views are more Extended. For no person would deprive them selves of the present Enjoyment of things unless they Had a prospect of a future advantage to result from that Restraint they Lay upon them selves. Therefore those persons who act in that Ministerial Capacity in the propagation of Theology must be Conciuous before they undertake such an arduous task, that it is a Service requir'd of them by their Creator and therefore their duty and Interest to Comply, for a Want of Compliance might very Justly Subject them to the Just Indignation of an offended Deity by which Offence they may Loos the Salvation of their Souls and as the Preservation of our Souls is of the Highest concern to our Selves. From that consideration there is a Freedom Effect'd to subject our Selves to all those Temporary Inconveniences in order to promote and Secure to our Selves a permanent Happiness. Methinks he that neglects the Nobler purposes of Life, by the pursuit of Transitory Pleasures (If there is a Volition in the mind) is not so Selfish as he Ought to be or he has but an incompleat Idea of the Consequence of our Selves to prefer our present pleasures to a future Happiness, when there is such a disproportion in the degrees of Quantity and Continuance. Thus you see how I extend the Idea of Self so as to Unite in one all the propertyes of the Body and the Faculties of the Mind and their various operations which union Constitutes but one proper Self. Self thus uniformly and Connectively Considered we shall find to be the Original Cause and Spring of all action or motion. For all Religious Services and duties, Self is promis'd a future reward and that future reward being of Such a Nature our present prospect of pleasure is Entirely Enveloped therein, and made Subservient to that Contemplative prospect of Felicity. For if we were not Confident that its absolutely necessary to subject and repress our Sensual appetites within certain Limitations, in order to Establish our Future Happiness, What cause should we have for doing of it, When we by that restraint are Subjected to many uneasy Sensations. Now as all our passions and appetites are put in motion by representing or proposing certain Objects and Subjects to the View of our Mind, Which Naturally Creates a desire of Gratifying ourselves in the Enjoyment of them, What is there to hinder us from a free indulgence therein. There is nothing untill there is something Newly proposed that will have a more powerful influence and operation upon us than the present prospect of pleasure has. Does not the mind here bring the two prospects in Contrast and by

its power of Comparing and Considering with it self which measure will most Effectually conduce to its happiness, from a resolution from that considerative View which to pursue. I am apt to believe it does, and if that Conclusion be just, it Necessarily follows that all our Thoughts and actions flow from a Selfish principle. Only the Enjoyment is propos'd to be Experienced at different Periods and enjoyed under different forms and Carrectors. For the mind is ever attentive to its own Felicity When our desires are agreeable to Rectified Nature, and the Lessor Considerations is obliged to give place to the greater, but what makes us to Mistake our true happiness, is, the powerful operation of our passions and prejudices which make the Lessor appear to be the Greater, and by that False representation we are decoyed. From what I have said it appears that all our Religious dispositions and Moral Conduct is Fundamentally Establish'd upon a Self exalting Principle or a Natural Desire to promote our own happiness.

Therefore I think it may be Safely concluded that if there is any disinterrested actions they are of a Religious Nature. But as there dont appear to be any under a religious Carrector, Consequently there are none at all. For if Great and exalted Spirits undertake the pursuit of Hazardous Actions for the good of others, at the same time they have in View the Gratification of their passion for glory, and again if Worthy minds in the domestick way of Life deny them Selves many advantages to Satisfy a Generous Benevolence which they bear to their friends who are surrounded with distress and Calamity, do they not propose a greater happiness to result from the Contemplation of relieving our friends in distress than the Enjoyment of the Benefits bestowed could have afforded us. Thus you see there are no actions either practical or Speculative but that Self is the primary mover and first principles, and now agreeable to my Selfish principles being no longer able to please myself with writing and far from thinking the reading will please you I am determin'd to Quit the Subject, But not without first asking your pardon for Intruding upon your Patience and shall proceed to your Second Epistle upon a Rural retreat. I entirely agree with you in Sentiment respecting the happiness Enjoyed in a Country Life, but I do not apprehend my self so well Quallified to Relish them as you are being always accustom'd thereto, for our Natures seems to require a Variety of Objects and Subjects to amuse our Selves with and as you Spend part of your time in the City and part in Country you thereby are Enabled from Comparison to determine the precise difference. But the Idea that I have form'd of the difference Subsisting between a Court and a Country Life is as the Succession of fair Weather after a Storm, for a clear Sky and a Serener air Seems to diffuse a General

Joy unto all the animal and Vegetable World. Whereas a Storm is big with Horror and seems to portend immediate destruction and tho the Laws of Nature says this Succession is Necessary, yet they Cloath her face with a Certain Gloominess, which every animal is a Common sufferer in. Thus I compare a Country Life to a Clear Sky and a Serene air, for there and there only its to be enjoyed and which alone can Quallify our minds properly for Speculation, for here Nature seems to move Gently on undisturbed with Noise & tumult, and here we may Contemplate the beauty and order of the Creation untill we arrive to that pitch of Knowledge and understanding (in our Enquiry) that the God of Nature hath Quallified us to Soar too. Thus if we are amind to turn Our attention to the Annimal World the Country affords a Great Variety of Objects Which Objects if we are dispos'd to observe their progression and attend to the Laws of Nature we shall find the Living creatures observe the Laws prescribed them after their manner producing their own Species or if we are amind to attend the plants of the Earth and observe their Succession from age to age. From Small Seeds they spring up and proceed from Stature to Stature after their kinds till they arrive at the perfection assigned them. Is not this practical and Contemplative view of things, matter of Solid joy when Experienced with a placid temper of Mind. But to return to the Storm and the City and Enquire after their Similarity, a Storm is a State of Confusion, so is a City. A Storm often Changes the Face of things. So are the face of things often Changed in Cities by the tumults & uproars which they are Subject to from the Contention of Opposite Interests. A Storm is Necessary to promote Vegatable production in the Country. A City is Necessary to receive and Consume them when produced. Thus you see a Storm and a City are both Necessary to promote the Country Interest. I am now agoing to Greenwich which obliges me to Lay down my pen and I dare say you are not Sorry for it, but I do not intend to take my Leave of you till I have asked pardon for one of my usual Blunders that is for not Sending my Compliments to your father Family and in particular to Nancy & Kitty in my Last Letter, all which please to do at the receipt of this Letter in a duplicate ratio to atone for the former Neglect, and now being about to depart I must bid you farewell in an affectionate manner, and am with the greatest respect your sincere friend & Well Wisher

[Nathanael Greene, Jr.]

NB I have not time to Correct the Errors in this Long Epistle and therefore must Intreat you not to Expose it to any bodies View but your own Whose good Nature I dare say will Excuse them

BEQUESTS AND GRANTS

received July 1, 1954 — June 30, 1955

Henry D. Sharpe	\$10,000
For general use (bequest)	
Frank Hail Brown	2,000
For restoration and care of John Brown's chariot (bequest)	
William A. Wing	1,000
For the purchase of genealogical books (bequest)	
Rhode Island Foundation	1,425
For the renovation of the fourth floor for storage (grant)	

CARIBBEAN PORTS

IN THE FOREIGN COMMERCE OF PROVIDENCE

1790 — 1830

by EARL C. TANNER

[concluded from October, 1955, v. 14, no. 4, page 108]

DUTCH, DANISH, AND SWEDISH WEST INDIES EXCEPT SURINAM

In contrast to the British and French West Indies, the Dutch, Danish, and Swedish West Indies were fairly free from trade restrictions. St. Eustatius, Curaçao, St. Thomas, and St. Bartholomew were especially well-known for their hospitality to foreign shipping. In the early 1790's Providence carried on an extensive trade with the Dutch West Indies, especially St. Eustatius.³² During the American Revolution this island had been converted by the energy of Dutch merchants into an *entrepôt* of extraordinary value to the Revolutionary cause, but an attack by the British Navy had put an end to this chapter in the island's history.³³ The new prosperity of the 1790's was terminated in another fashion. When war broke out, the French army immediately occupied Holland; in 1795 the French Navy occupied St. Eustatius. The effect upon the island's foreign trade may be judged from the table of arrivals at Providence.

³²From 1783 to 1793, American vessels were not allowed to trade between the Dutch West Indies and Holland. They were, however, permitted to trade between the Dutch West Indies and the United States. Similar regulations were in effect at the Danish West Indies. Albion and Pope, *op. cit.*, 66-67.

³³For general information on the Dutch West Indies, see Philip H. Hiss, *Netherlands America* (New York, 1943).

ENTRIES AT THE PORT OF PROVIDENCE

From the Dutch West Indies

Except Surinam			
1790..... 1	1800..... 0	1810..... 0	1820..... 0
1791..... 5	1801..... 0	1811..... 0	1821..... 2
1792..... 13	1802..... 0	1812..... 0	1822..... 4
1793..... 6	1803..... 0	1813..... 0	1823..... 9
1794..... 8	1804..... 0	1814..... 0	1824..... 2
1795..... 1	1805..... 0	1815..... 0	1825..... 4
1796..... 1	1806..... 0	1816..... 0	1826..... 4
1797..... 0	1807..... 0	1817..... 2	1827..... 4
1798..... 0	1808..... 0	1818..... 1	1828..... 3
1799..... 1	1809..... 0	1819..... 0	1829..... 1

French occupation continued until 1801 when the island was seized by the British. At the Peace of Amiens, Holland recovered St. Eustatius, but lost it to the British again from 1810 to 1815. Meanwhile the role of *entrepôt* was taken over by others, and economic conditions on St. Eustatius became desperate. From the table of arrivals it will be seen that the Dutch West Indies enjoyed something of a revival in the 1820's; once again the explanation was the talent of the Dutch for operating a commercial depot. This time, however, the island to reap the profits was not St. Eustatius, but Curaçao. Of the thirty-three vessels that arrived in Providence from the Dutch West Indies between 1821 and 1829 all but three were from Curaçao. As the prosperity of St. Eustatius had been built on the American Revolution and the Franco-British hostilities of 1793, so the prosperity of Curaçao was built on the South American Wars for Independence.³⁴ The 1820's were years of extreme turbulence in Venezuela and New Granada. The area was secured from Spanish recapture by the victory at Carabobo in 1821, but political stability was still far away. Under the circumstances commerce with the mainland was difficult though profitable; Curaçao, being strategically located off the coast, quickly undertook the familiar role of broker.

Providence commerce with the Danish West Indies followed a different pattern as may be seen from the table of arrivals.

The decline of the Dutch West Indies was, in some measure, the occasion for the rise of the Danish West Indies.³⁵ As the demand for sugar increased and as one sugar-producing area after another was

³⁴*Ibid.*, *passim*.

³⁵*Ibid.*, 104.

ENTRIES AT THE PORT OF PROVIDENCE

From the Danish West Indies

1790..... 4	1800..... 4	1810..... 3	1820..... 3
1791..... 2	1801..... 11	1811..... 4	1821..... 1
1792..... 10	1802..... 8	1812..... 0	1822..... 1
1793..... 6	1803..... 10	1813..... 0	1823..... 1
1794..... 8	1804..... 11	1814..... 0	1824..... 4
1795..... 6	1805..... 11	1815..... 1	1825..... 1
1796..... 13	1806..... 3	1816..... 6	1826..... 5
1797..... 17	1807..... 9	1817..... 3	1827..... 0
1798..... 10	1808..... 2	1818..... 5	1828..... 1
1799..... 13	1809..... 1	1819..... 5	1829..... 0

temporarily eliminated, prices went up and remaining areas enjoyed high profits. Such was the case of the Danish West Indies from 1793 to 1801 and from 1803 to 1807.³⁶ Cotton culture, once important on these islands, was practically abandoned in favor of sugar during the Napoleonic Wars. In addition to producing sugar the Danish West Indies served as a major *entrepôt* for the exchange of European and North American goods. Finally, however, they suffered the same fate as their French and Dutch neighbors. They were seized and held by the British from 1801 to 1802 and from 1807 to 1815. The effect upon trade may be seen in the table of arrivals at Providence. After the war, from 1816 through 1820, the Danish West Indies made a fair recovery. This was due in part to their good location and their fertility, and in part to the fact that Denmark in 1815 imitated the Dutch by declaring St. Thomas wholly free of discriminating commercial restrictions.³⁷ A complete postwar recovery, however, was impossible, because other and better sources of supply had been discovered.

The Swedish West Indies; that is to say, St. Bartholomew, are interesting mainly because of a brief period of lively trade with Providence lasting from 1809 through 1812.³⁸ As may be seen from the table of arrivals, there was little trade between St. Bartholomew and Providence either before or after those years.

³⁶For general information in the Danish West Indies, see Waldemar Westergaard, *The Danish West Indies* (New York, 1917).

³⁷St. Croix was not entirely freed until 1833. *Ibid.*, 250.

³⁸There is a good contemporary description of St. Bartholomew in George Coggeshall, *Voyages to Various Parts of the World* (New York, 2 ed., 1853), 151.

ENTRIES AT THE PORT OF PROVIDENCE

From the Swedish West Indies

1800.....	0	1810.....	11	1820.....	1
1801.....	0	1811.....	10	1821.....	0
1802.....	0	1812.....	11	1822.....	0
1803.....	3	1813.....	2	1823.....	3
1804.....	2	1814.....	4	1824.....	3
1805.....	2	1815.....	4	1825.....	2
1806.....	3	1816.....	2	1826.....	1
1807.....	3	1817.....	0	1827.....	0
1808.....	2	1818.....	1	1828.....	0
1809.....	11	1819.....	3	1829.....	0

Most of the trade between Providence and St. Bartholomew falls into the period between the repeal of the Embargo and the outbreak of the War of 1812 and is to be explained wholly by the neutral character of the island. Trade with the British West Indies was forbidden by the Non-Intercourse Act and the Macon Act; and the French, Dutch, and Danish West Indies were mostly occupied by the British. St. Bartholomew became a major depot for indirect trade with the other islands. It should not be assumed, however, that all the American vessels clearing for, or returning from, St. Bartholomew actually visited that island. The following excerpt from a consular dispatch of the period indicates quite the contrary:

I think it my duty to state for the information of Gov't, that, from observations actually made during my residence in St. Barts', not more than one half of the Vessels that arrive and sail from the United States, reported from and cleared for S. Bartholomew ever were in the Island, they proceed direct to the islands of the Enemy and return from there under forged clearances, and I regret to say are in general owned by persons residing in the United States.³⁹

It was universally recognized that the produce of St. Bartholomew was scarcely sufficient to maintain the island's population. St. Bartholomew's brief trade boom resulted wholly from the accidents of war.

SURINAM

In the 1790's Surinam and Hispaniola were the leading sources of Providence sugar imports. The decline of Hispaniola has already been discussed; the fate of Surinam was different, but equally unfortunate. Surinam, unlike the Dutch West Indian Islands, was

³⁹Nat. W. Strong, New York, N.Y., to James Monroe, Washington, D.C., Sept. 14, 1813, Consular Dispatches from St. Bartholomew at the National Archives, Washington, D.C.

notable for its production as well as for its trade. It was originally a British settlement, but was turned over to the Dutch in the seventeenth century in exchange for New York. In the latter part of the eighteenth century Surinam became very prosperous as a sugar colony and as may be seen from the table of arrivals at Providence attracted a considerable foreign trade.

ENTRIES AT THE PORT OF PROVIDENCE

From Surinam

1790.....	6	1800.....	2	1810.....	3	1820.....	2
1791.....	14	1801.....	5	1811.....	1	1821.....	5
1792.....	16	1802.....	2	1812.....	0	1822.....	5
1793.....	16	1803.....	5	1813.....	0	1823.....	2
1794.....	13	1804.....	10	1814.....	0	1824.....	4
1795.....	15	1805.....	3	1815.....	0	1825.....	3
1796.....	15	1806.....	5	1816.....	0	1826.....	4
1797.....	15	1807.....	4	1817.....	3	1827.....	4
1798.....	11	1808.....	5	1818.....	4	1828.....	6
1799.....	8	1809.....	1	1819.....	5	1829.....	3

By 1796 the end was in sight, for in that year the British occupied the neighboring Dutch colonies of Berbice and Demerara.⁴⁰ From 1799 to 1802 and from 1803 to 1815 Surinam was in British hands. As may be seen, trade continued, though at a reduced level, until 1811, and then stopped wholly until 1817. After the Napoleonic Wars, Surinam, unlike Haiti, resumed its former status as a European plantation colony. Providence shipping returned to the familiar port of Paramaribo to renew the trade which had once been so profitable. The volume, however, was not equal to that of the 1790's. Indeed, it would have been negligible but for the interests of one Providence firm, Humphrey & Everett. Surinam, like the other sugar colonies, had lost most of its trade to a competitor.⁴¹ That competitor was Cuba.

CUBA

While the British, French, Dutch, and Danish West Indies were at their height of eighteenth century prosperity, Cuba was just beginning to emerge from three centuries of subsistence farming. The most forcible impetus to the development of Cuba was the occupation of

⁴⁰After the war, Berbice and Demerara were retained by the British. For a general history of the Guianas, see James Rodway, *Guiana: British, Dutch, and French* (London, 1912).

⁴¹Hiss, *op. cit.*, 104.

Havana in 1762 by the British. The suspension of Spanish commercial monopoly during that period resulted in a startling increase in Cuban foreign trade and a corresponding increase in the public revenues.⁴² This lesson was not entirely lost on Charles III, who was among the most progressive of Spanish kings. After restoration of his authority in 1763 he initiated a number of reforms which permitted relatively free trade between Cuba and several cities on the Spanish Peninsula. During the 1760's new products were introduced: coffee, honey, and beeswax.⁴³ Slave imports and sugar production increased throughout the latter part of the century, but foreign traders continued to be almost wholly excluded except for a time during the American Revolution.⁴⁴

Then, in 1793, Spain declared war against France. Like the other belligerents Spain was obliged to open her Caribbean ports in order to prevent the complete economic collapse of her colonies.⁴⁵ This action had very little effect on trade between Providence and Cuba, since Spain was allied with England from 1793 to 1795; while the United States, during those years, tended to favor France. As the following table of arrivals will show, only an occasional Providence vessel found its way to Cuba during those years. More would undoubtedly have gone but for the fact that Spain joined with England in the attack on American vessels trading with the French West Indies.

In 1795 Spain made peace with France and consequently closed her Caribbean ports to neutral shipping. For the next two years imports and exports of foreign goods were permitted only by special license.⁴⁶ In 1797, however, war conditions caused the local authorities to take a chance on reopening Cuban ports, a measure which later received the approval of Charles IV.⁴⁷ The action was reflected in an increased number of arrivals at the port of Providence in 1798, but the following year the vacillating monarch withdrew his permission by means of a royal order, dated April 20, 1799. Fortunately the Cuban Captain General was courageous enough to sup-

⁴²C. H. Haring, *The Spanish Empire in America* (New York, 1947), 340, 342.

⁴³Willis Fletcher Johnson, *The History of Cuba* (New York, 1920), II, 225.

⁴⁴According to one estimate, 320,000 slaves were introduced between 1791 and 1825, compared with 93,000 before 1791. A. G. Keller cited in Ragatz, *op. cit.*, 337.

⁴⁵Ramiro Guerra y Sánchez, *Manuel de historia de Cuba* (Havana, 1938), 198.

⁴⁶*Ibid.*, 198.

⁴⁷*Ibid.*, 198.

ENTRIES AT THE PORT OF PROVIDENCE

From Cuba

1790.....	0	1800.....	15	1810.....	19	1820.....	19
1791.....	1	1801.....	14	1811.....	14	1821.....	23
1792.....	2	1802.....	11	1812.....	11	1822.....	34
1793.....	2	1803.....	5	1813.....	10	1823.....	23
1794.....	1	1804.....	5	1814.....	7	1824.....	28
1795.....	1	1805.....	12	1815.....	8	1825.....	18
1796.....	3	1806.....	13	1816.....	15	1826.....	39
1797.....	3	1807.....	16	1817.....	26	1827.....	42
1798.....	6	1808.....	9	1818.....	25	1828.....	47
1799.....	12	1809.....	9	1819.....	17	1829.....	26

press the order, and the number of arrivals at Providence therefore continued to increase in 1799 and 1800. Vessels that might earlier have gone to Hispaniola, Guadeloupe, or Martinique were already trading with Cuba.⁴⁸

At the same time, a tremendous impetus was given to Cuban production by the arrival of refugees from the successive cataclysms on the neighboring island of Hispaniola. The cession of eastern Hispaniola to France in 1795 was followed by Toussaint L'Ouverture's occupation of the entire island. This caused a large scale exodus, first of French then of Spanish planters, to Cuba and elsewhere. In 1802 the rout and consequent withdrawal of Leclerc's army caused many of the remaining French planters from the western end of the island to follow their former neighbors to Cuba. Cuban accessions of French and Spanish immigrants from Hispaniola have been estimated as high as 30,000. Both sugar and coffee production were greatly improved in Cuba by the newly arrived planters at precisely the time when competing areas were being eliminated by the hostilities of their European masters or by social revolution.⁴⁹

It might be supposed that the government of Charles IV would have hastened to take advantage of the opportunity open to Cuba. Instead, the Peace of Amiens was made the occasion to prohibit foreign commerce. Once again the Cuban Captain General and his colleague, the Intendente, retrieved the error by suspending operation

⁴⁸In the late 1790's, trade between the United States and Cuba was hampered by hard feelings over the Mississippi question. *Ibid.*, 200.

⁴⁹*Ibid.*, 200-204. It is curious that a commercial dictionary published as late as 1804 could offer the following not quite accurate observations on Cuba: "Although it is capable of raising sugar to supply all Europe, yet there are but a few plantations of sugar, and these insufficient for home consumption." J. Montefiore, *A Commercial Dictionary* (Philadelphia, 1804), 519.

of the decree with respect to North American vessels except when Spain was able to supply the needs of the island. As Spain was rarely, if ever, able to meet this condition, commerce with North America continued.⁵⁰

Arrivals at Providence fell off somewhat in 1803 and 1804, perhaps reflecting a temporary revival of trade with occupied Surinam and a fairly active trade with the Danish and French islands. Cuban trade again increased in 1805 and held up remarkably well through the Embargo and the War of 1812. Arrivals during the Embargo are to be explained by a special ruling permitting ship owners to send vessels in ballast to collect unpaid debts. Arrivals during the War of 1812 were almost all Spanish vessels—the only notable invasion of foreign shipping at the port of Providence during the first three decades of the nineteenth century. The fact that Cuban trade held up so well between 1808 and 1815 demonstrates that the Spanish colony had achieved a clear ascendancy in the sugar trade. The island was conveniently located; its ports were accessible; its products of high quality.

After the War of 1812 Britain unintentionally contributed to the continuing ascendancy of Cuba by closing the British sugar colonies to American shipping. The new Republic of Haiti had practically withdrawn from sugar production and was exporting a relatively small amount of coffee. The French and Dutch West Indies were still suffering from the effects of prolonged enemy occupation. All that the king of Spain had to do in order to take advantage of these circumstances was to refrain from prohibiting foreign commerce. Ferdinand VII finally recognized the economic facts which his predecessors had failed to recognize. On February 10, 1818, he issued a decree which permanently established free foreign commerce.⁵¹ So attractive was Cuba that a considerable number of Rhode Island families bought plantations on the island. Letters from Cuba to Providence describe plantation life of the period.⁵²

From 1818 to 1829 Cuban arrivals at the port of Providence in-

⁵⁰Guerra y Sánchez, *op. cit.*, 200-201.

⁵¹*Ibid.*, 239.

⁵²Many, perhaps most, of the Rhode Island settlers in Cuba were from Bristol. John C. Pease and John M. Niles, *A Gazetteer of the States of Connecticut and Rhode Island* (Hartford, 1819), 364. For a letter to Providence, see, Sara Jenckes, Plantation St. Cyielo, to Huldah M. Carter, Providence, R. I. Jun. 1, 1817 in the Updike papers at The Rhode Island Historical Society.

creased rapidly. Fluctuations in volume reflected world trade conditions rather than artificial trade regulations. Thereafter the Spanish government again embarked on a program of discrimination, which created serious unrest on the island and strained relations with the United States. Nevertheless, despite Spanish interference, Cuba had clearly inherited the trade of her Caribbean rivals.

MINOR CARIBBEAN PORTS

The Caribbean ports visited by Providence vessels with any frequency have already been discussed. It remains to mention briefly a few others. In the period from 1800 to 1830 nineteen vessels entered Providence from Puerto Rico. After 1815 the Captain General of that island made a particular effort to attract foreign shipping and to share, as far as possible, the new prosperity of Cuba.⁵³ The nineteen arrivals occurred in the following years:

1805.....	1	1814.....	2	1825.....	1
1809.....	2	1820.....	1	1826.....	1
1811.....	1	1821.....	1	1829.....	1
1813.....	1	1822.....	3	1830.....	1
		1823.....	1		
		1824.....	2		

The Venezuelan coast was occasionally visited by Providence vessels, though not often enough for any pattern to emerge. The following arrivals have been recorded:

1809—Cumaná	1813—La Guaira
1809—Barcelona	1824—Maracaibo
1812—Margarita (2 entries)	

Finally, Spanish Central America, which won its independence in 1823, was visited eight times between 1826 and 1828. Returns at the port of Providence were as follows:

1825—Omoa	1827—Omoa (2 entries)
1826—Omoa	1828—Omoa (3 entries)
1826—Truxillo	

SUMMARY

At the beginning of the French Revolution, the imperial policies of the major European nations, particularly Spain, France, and England, were determined by mercantilist concepts. This meant that the commerce of the Caribbean area was not free to respond to the

⁵³The Captain General's proclamation is translated in the *Rhode Island American*, April 28, 1815.

laws of supply and demand operating in world markets, but was forced to conform to regulations designed to promote imperial interests.

Between 1790 and 1830 the stresses of war—the French Revolution, the Napoleonic struggle, and the Wars for Latin-American Independence—forced from time to time and in several places a relaxation of imperial regulations. When this occurred, trade flowed vigorously into natural channels.

The advantages of free trade, thus demonstrated to planters and imperial authorities in the Caribbean colonies, was further emphasized by the success of the liberal trade policies of the lesser colonial powers: Holland, Denmark, and Sweden.

For most of the Lesser Antilles, the Guianas, and Hispaniola, however, the economic benefits of occasional periods of free trade were offset by the ravages of war or by enemy occupation. More fortunate was the Spanish colony of Cuba, which, after three centuries of arrested development, was ready to embark upon a program of rapid economic expansion. The natural resources of the island were incomparably greater than those of its neighbors; the time was ripe; the Napoleonic Wars gave Cuba its chance.

When Napoleon was at last defeated and the princes of Europe prepared to reassert their authority at home and in their empires, the American colonies were almost unanimous in their protest. In Cuba, though the time for independence was not ripe, the people successfully resisted the reimposition of the most restrictive trade regulations. Thus it was that the ports of Havana, Matanzas, and Santiago remained open; and thus it was that Cuba replaced those earlier sources of tropical produce which had suffered the devastations of war, and some of which were again cut off from their natural channels of trade by mercantilist regulations.

These events, crucial in the history of the Caribbean and significant for the maritime history of the United States, are accurately reflected in the commercial records of the port of Providence.



THE 134TH ANNUAL MEETING

THE 134TH ANNUAL MEETING of The Rhode Island Historical Society was held at John Brown House on September 28, 1955. President George L. Miner called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

The Secretary read the call of the meeting and declared a quorum to be present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Harold H. Kelly, treasurer, reported for the year ending June 30, 1955. [See page 25.]

The Membership Committee's report showed 146 new members, and a total membership of 1,652 at the end of our fiscal year, the largest membership in the history of the Society.

The Lecture Committee reported the total number of visitors and those attending meetings of all organizations held at John Brown House during the year was 3,846.

The Publication Committee reported that the Society had published four issues of *Rhode Island History* during the year and recommended that an index to the Quarterly be published to cover the years since 1946, when the last index was printed.

The report of the Building and Grounds Committee showed that expenditures of approximately \$9,000 have been made during the year for the maintenance of John Brown House and the grounds surrounding it, but the unusually large expenses during the year were due to the painting of John Brown House and damage caused by hurricanes.

The Audit Committee reported that the financial statements and records of the Society for the year ending June 30, 1955 had been examined and found to be correct.

Mr. Clarkson A. Collins III then read his report as Librarian. He described the work being done to microfilm the voluminous files of periodicals and papers published in Rhode Island, and stated that all current newspapers are being microfilmed resulting in a great saving of space. He told of recent acquisitions by the Society, including a hitherto unknown broadside printed at Newport by Solomon Southwick and dated March 26, 1776, the logs of three early Providence sailing ships, acquired at a recent auction, and gifts made by Clinton Prescott Knight, Jr., the late Professor Benjamin W. Brown, and the Rudolf F. Haffenreffer Foundation. He also told of the bequest made by Mr. William A. Wing, a former librarian of the Society.

Mr. Clifford P. Monahan then presented his annual report as director of the Society. He reported that the annual appropriation to the Society from the City of Providence had been increased to \$2,000. He stated that he would make his report very brief and not use up the time

of the lecturer, who was to speak after the close of the annual meeting. Without detail he summarized outstanding reasons for feeling that the year had been a good one: (1) Members had responded quickly to the appeal for funds to repair hurricane damage in a generous and unprecedented fashion. (2) Membership had steadily increased to an all-time high. (3) The Society had been generously remembered by legacies. (4) The Society was becoming increasingly better known all over the country as the center of Rhode Island documents, furniture, arts, and crafts. (5) The Society was giving increased service to the community and thereby justifying its existence.

As the members stood in respect, Mr. Frank L. Hinckley, Jr. read the report of the Committee on Necrology.

Mr. Frederick W. Aldred	Mr. Ivory Littlefield
Miss Lucy T. Aldrich	Mr. W. Granville Meader
Mrs. Franklin H. Arnold	Mr. Carleton D. Morse
Mr. Latimer Willis Ballou	Mr. Edward S. Moulton
Dr. Bruce M. Bigelow	Mrs. Paul C. Nicholson
Col. William M. P. Bowen	Mr. John T. Nightingale
Mr. F. Bradford Calef	Mr. Harald W. Ostby
Mr. George H. Capron	Mr. William Howard Paine
Mr. Walter Channing	Mr. Arthur L. Philbrick
Mr. Frederic L. Chase	Mr. Ralph Richards
Mrs. Ward B. Chase	Mr. Preston Richardson
Mr. Harry Parsons Cross	Mr. Elmer F. Seabury
Mrs. Katherine K. H. DeWolf	Mr. David S. Seaman
Miss Susan B. Franklin	Dr. George L. Shattuck
Mr. Evert W. Freeman	Mr. Perry J. Sherman
Mr. W. Louis Frost	Mr. F. Snowden Skinner
Mr. George B. Glendenning	Mr. Winfield S. Solomon
Mr. R. F. Haffenreffer	Mrs. James Edward Thompson
Mr. Everett S. Hartwell	Mr. Theodore F. Tillinghast
Mr. Edward P. Jastram	Mrs. Ethel Taylor Webster
Mrs. Charles A. Kilvert	Mr. John Mayhew Wood

In a short address, Mr. Miner reported that the Society had had a successful year. [See page 23.]

Mr. Westcote H. Chesebrough, chairman, then read the report of the Nominating Committee.

There being no further nominations and upon motion, the nominations were closed and the secretary was instructed to cast one ballot for the slate as read. The officers being duly elected, Mr. George L. Miner, who was reelected president, said a few words of appreciation and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

FRANK L. HINCKLEY, JR., *Secretary*

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ONCE A YEAR the members of the Historical Society meet to take account of stock. It is a pleasant thing to do; for many years we have in annual meeting found ourselves by all accounts leading a healthy and useful life.

This year has been good. Your Executive Committee, as the Constitution terms the Trustees whom you elect, note gentle and wholesome progress. The riches of our library have been open to a fair number of scholars and historians; it is a joy to see these books and manuscripts used. A case in point for example is tonight's paper by Dr. Chase. Upstairs, in the precious manuscript diary of Usher Parsons, a rugged young surgeon of 1814, Dr. Chase has found source material for a brilliant bit of historical research. Great riches are in the manuscripts and printed books in this library of ours. We are all welcome to use these resources; the delights of historical research are at your disposal.

Another delight to contemplate is John Brown House itself. This gracious mansion of ours—gift of our across-the-street neighbor John Nicholas Brown—stands in its elm-shaded grounds as one of the cultural riches of the community. Here in these stately rooms are many pieces of eighteenth century furniture and furnishings owned and used by the Browns of three and four generations ago. The Joseph Brown block-front secretary in our southwest room was photographed in color for magazine *Life* last winter. Gifts of these priceless heirlooms continue to come to us and our reputation as a museum of Rhode Island possessions of the state's richest period grows apace.

We have much more to be grateful for. Bequests and gifts of money continue to add to our capital funds and our Finance Committee's reports made good reading. All in all our financial house is in order and seems likely to gain gradual strength.

Your Executive Committee have given thought to the much debated problem of room for our crowded and gradually expanding books and manuscripts. In 1942 Messrs. Cady and Creer made sketches for an auditorium addition to John Brown House. Three years ago Mr. Conrad Green with Mr. Roelker laid out an ingenious stack-room building. No definite action followed these ideas.

This year the Executive Committee authorized an exploration of our problem, discussed it as a three-sided need—for book and manuscript stack-room, for auditorium reading room and for museum exhibitions. A committee was appointed to study and report its recommendations; it was termed the New Library Building Committee and comprised six persons: Messrs. John Nicholas Brown, Harry B. Freeman, R. H. I.

Goddard, Jr., Stuart C. Sherman, Lawrence C. Wroth and your president. This New Library Building Committee has engaged as consultant Dr. Keyes Metcalf, recently retired noted librarian of Harvard College. Dr. Metcalf has visited John Brown House, has discussed the problem with the Committee and with Director Monahon and Librarian Collins, and expects to make his report before the end of the calendar year.

Another committee authorized by the Executive Board is a new Museum Committee, now in process of formation; it will relieve the Library Committee of the policy problems of museum accessions, gifts and disposals.

A third new committee is the John Brown Coach Committee. As you may know we own John Brown's coach, or chariot, as it was called in his day. We have some money left us by the late Frank Hail Brown for its restoration; it is a notable vehicle and will make a stunning blue and gold addition to our museum.

May I say how thankful we should be that we escaped serious flood and hurricane damage. Our neighbors, The Connecticut Historical Society, were flooded in August, lost much in precious manuscripts and books and have not yet reopened. John Brown House came through with only a clogged drain problem; our building and its grounds are in excellent condition. We have much to be grateful for.

On behalf of the Executive Committee I extend our appreciation for the patient, painstaking and enlightened services of Director Monahon, Librarian Collins, Miss Paull and Miss Huling. They have done much more than maintain a well-run institution; their cheerful attitude of welcome to an appreciative community has broadened the Society's usefulness. The lecture meetings have also been enhanced by the gracious services of the efficient Ladies' Hostess Committee.

The year has been a busy one. Yet future work, not yet programmed, in our unsorted manuscript material—work of calendaring and indexing—lies open and beckoning. We hope much to attract more and more historical research in the notable riches of Rhode Island history of which we are the willing custodians.

GEORGE L. MINER

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

For Year ending June 30, 1955

INCOME			
Dues		\$8,478.00	
Securities Income		8,825.13	
Interest on Bank Deposits		9.63	
John Brown House Fund Income		184.32	
State of Rhode Island Appropriation		8,500.00	
City of Providence		1,000.00	
Contributions:General	\$1,880.00		
Corporate	1,125.00		
Special	330.00	3,335.00	
Patriotic Societies		300.00	
Sale of Publications, Books, etc.		512.50	
Social Events of Outside Societies		140.30	
Miscellaneous Income		283.22	\$31,568.10
EXPENSES			
Salaries		\$16,044.00	
Social Security Taxes		283.47	
Director's Discretionary Fund		350.89	
Supplies		707.22	
Telephone		297.85	
Membership Printing		385.40	
Library Books, Periodicals, etc.		1,127.73	
Museum		231.92	
Lectures, Printing and Entertainment		343.58	
Publications, Printing and Postage		3,071.05	
Heat, Light and Housekeeping		1,624.28	
Maintenance of Grounds	\$3,087.78		
Maintenance of Buildings	5,955.10	9,042.88	
Insurance		583.19	
Miscellaneous Expense		695.36	\$34,788.82
OPERATING DEFICIT			3,220.72
Transferred from Special Funds			2,775.00
ADJUSTED OPERATING DEFICIT			\$ 445.72

BALANCE SHEET

June 30, 1955

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Cash	\$ 8,363.25	Life Membership Reserve	\$ 2,700.00
Special Funds	3,549.97	Library Book Fund Reserve	529.21
Investments	169,460.22	Publication Fund Reserve	1,160.20
John Brown House Fund	7,955.00	Anticipated Expense Reserve	1,304.83
Real Estate, Furniture			
and Fixtures	50,006.00	SPECIAL FUNDS	
Books and Manuscripts	50,000.00	John Brown House	\$ 7,955.00
Accounts Receivable	258.25	Wilbour Endowment	41,102.41
		Irene Seabury Cummings	
		Endowment	5,000.00
		John Brown Chariot	2,240.92
		William G. Roelker	
		Memorial	869.47
		William A. Wing	
		(Library)	1,000.00
		Net Worth	58,167.80
			225,730.65
			\$289,592.69

\$289,592.69

HAROLD H. KELLY, *Treasurer*



5. SIDE CHAIR

Mahogany

Rhode Island 1785-1800

A comparison of the design of this "shield-back" Hepplewhite chair, with those shown in *The Cabinet-Maker and Upholsterer's Guide* from drawings by A. Hepplewhite and Company, Cabinet-Makers, published in London in 1788, will emphasize the point that while our American designs were undoubtedly inspired by English sources, our craftsmen showed great skill in producing original interpretations of old themes. In this case the principal deviation centers around the shaping of the urn.

Chairs of this design have been attributed to Providence, Newport, and Rhode Island. In the absence of more definite proof as to the source or sources of this type of chair it seems reasonable to attribute it to Rhode Island. There is some reason to believe that when John Goddard and Engs formed a partnership just prior to John Goddard's death in 1785, chairs of this type were among the wares offered to the public at the warehouse in Providence. Similar chairs are pictured in the M. and M. Karolik Collection catalog (Fig. 101) and in the Girl Scout Loan Exhibition catalog (Number 736). In *Fine Points of Furniture* by Albert Sack a Massachusetts version, only slightly different from the Rhode Island, is pictured on pages 54 and 55. It is attributed to Benjamin Frothingham of Charlestown, and the carving is presumed to be by Samuel McIntire of Salem. A sketch of the splat signed by McIntire is preserved in the Essex Institute in Salem.

Ex-collection Henry A. Hoffman



6. DESK

Mahogany

Newport 1760-1770

Desks of this type are legion. That they were made in Newport by other cabinetmakers as well as by the Townsends and Goddards is well-established. That this particular one comes from the shop of one of the Townsends or Goddards is definitely indicated by so many of their characteristics. Whether it was Job Townsend or John Goddard or one of the others we cannot tell, but the family "trademarks" are there. The shells, the scrolls on the center shell, the profile of the pigeonhole walls, and the little drawers above them make this as easily identified as a package of Smith Brothers cough drops. The moulding below the drawers and the well are also typical. The brass pulls are particularly handsome and larger than is usual. The shaping of the feet and the fine, heavy, dark mahogany complete the Townsend-Goddard characteristics. The desk belonged originally to Moses Brown of Providence.

Ex-collection Julia D. and Franklin R. Cushman



7. DINING TABLE

(END SECTION OF THREE PARTS)

Mahogany

Newport 1785-1800

In 1929 The Metropolitan Museum of Art acquired a card table bearing the label of Stephen and Thomas Goddard, which was inlaid with urns and bellflowers of light wood and ivory. Several other tables with similar inlay are known and are usually unhesitatingly attributed to Stephen and Thomas. There is probably a strong likelihood that these attributions may be valid, but since at the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth century other Townsends and Goddards were working, it is possible that they too made tables with urns and bellflowers and used ivory as well as the usual lighter woods. John Townsend, for example, lived until 1809. An inlaid table bearing his label is pictured in the *Arts and Crafts of Newport, R. I., 1640-1820* on page 96.

It therefore seems best to attribute this table to the Townsend-Goddard school. In all of these tables the meticulous craftsmanship, which at an earlier time produced the shell-carved block-front pieces, is still present. The inlay, whether line, urn, or flower, is accurate and secure. Compared with the inlay found in Philadelphia and Baltimore at this period, it is much less sophisticated, retaining the Quaker simplicity which influenced design over so many years in Newport.

Ex-collection Henry A. Hoffman



8. TALL CLOCK

Mahogany

Newport 1760-1770

The Goddards and the Townsends made cases for clock makers in most of the towns in Rhode Island where clocks were sold. Some jewelers imported English works and dials for the cases they acquired in Newport. Others, like Claggett in Newport and Caleb Wheaton and Seril Dodge in Providence, made their own works and dials either in whole or in part. The dials were sometimes painted on iron as in this case; other dials were made of brass, which was sometimes silvered.

Cases varied according to price. The case of this clock was probably in the medium price range. A less expensive timepiece would not have had the carved shell and perhaps the urn and flame finials would have been omitted. For more money the case would have had a pediment of the broken arch type with carved rosettes, fluted corner posts, and chamfering on the base. For still more money the two outside finials would have been placed on individual platforms.

Ex-collection Mrs. Elliot Flint

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EXHIBITION

FRANCE AND EARLY RHODE ISLAND

prints, documents, miniature military figures, and objets d'art

LECTURES

January 11, 1956, Wednesday	STATED MEETING	8:15 p.m.
Great Oaks from Little Acorns Grow: the Manufacturers Mutual Fire Insurance Co. HOVEY T. FREEMAN, President		
February 12, 1956, Sunday		3:00 p.m.
Damnably Good Works: a Brief History of the First Unitarian Church of Providence MISS HELEN C. ROBERTSON		
March 11, 1956, Sunday		3:00 p.m.
A Chat on Some of the Rhode Island Pewterers <i>Illustrated with examples of their work</i> AMORY S. SKERRY		