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HUNTING SCENE

A portion of the painting by Michele Felice Corné on a wall in the front entry of the Sullivan Dorr House in Providence. This beautiful and historic house is the first property acquired by the Providence Preservation Society, an organization founded last year with the aim of saving the city's historic buildings from destruction.

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NEW LIGHT ON THE SULLIVAN DORR HOUSE

by ANTOINETTE F. DOWNING

Author of *Early Homes of Rhode Island* and

The Architectural Heritage of Newport, Rhode Island

THE SULLIVAN DORR HOUSE at 109 Benefit Street, recently given to the Providence Preservation Society by its owner, Miss Margarethe Dwight, is one of Rhode Island's most distinguished early nineteenth century houses. It has been little altered, and its mixture of Palladian, Georgian, and Gothic detail is fresh and original, typical both of the work of its builder, John Holden Greene, and of the date of its erection, 1809, the period when the stricter bonds of Colonial style were being broken. Moreover, the wall paintings by Michele Felice Corné in the parlor and upper and lower halls are of importance both intrinsically and historically. Now is a fitting time to review the history of the house.

Miss Dwight has very courteously allowed us to study an extraordinarily complete file of receipted bills for the building of the house, which has been carefully kept in a red box stamped in gold where they were probably stored by Sullivan Dorr himself. They cover the period from the digging of the cellar in the spring of 1809 to the finishing and painting of the house in the fall of 1810. A few later ones show that the garden fence was built in 1811, and some building and painting was done in that year and the next. This treasure trove of papers sheds new and specific light, not only on matters of actual building, but also on the names of workmen, where materials were secured, and other pertinent facts. Every item evidences the careful scrutiny of Sullivan Dorr himself.

One of the most important papers found folded among the receipted bills is the drawing of the floor plan and the front and rear

roof treatments, annotated in John Holden Greene's handwriting. Some minor changes were made in the balustrades. This drawing, reproduced on p. 37, shows that the parlor was originally designed to be a room 19 feet wide by 30 feet long. It also shows that the kitchen wing and the barn were included in the scheme from the first, but that the shed and the carriage house were not. Bills for the foundation prove, however, that all these subsidiary buildings were erected within the year of building.

Before we discuss the bills themselves, it might be well to review Sullivan Dorr's career briefly. He was born in Boston in 1778, the seventh son of Ebenezer and Abigail (Cunningham) Dorr, just three years after his father had ridden off, at the same time as did Paul Revere, but in a different direction, to sound the alarm against the British. Records show that the Dorrs traded on the Northwest Coast in the early days of the fur trade, and in 1799, young Sullivan, then just over twenty, went to Canton to represent his family's commercial interests.¹ He stayed for four years, serving part of the time as consular agent, and his correspondence during these years is the earliest known continuous record of any long stay in Canton.² He returned to Boston in 1803, and on October 14, 1804, he married Lydia, daughter of Zachariah and Ann (Crawford) Allen of Providence. Here he took up his residence and soon became one of the town's outstanding merchants. He died in 1858.

Sullivan and Lydia Dorr first set up housekeeping on Orms Street. Two long lists of silver and glassware, ordered from London at this time, are still preserved. They include, among other things, cut glass, knives, forks, candlesticks, an epergne, a silver teapot, a silver coffee-pot, three gadrooned silver waiters, a cruet stand, and a breadbasket, most of them richly marked. The silver, billed for £434.2.6, was sent to New York in the Bristol packet in October, 1805, where customhouse expenses and searchers' fees amounted to £3.2.6.

By 1809 Sullivan Dorr was ready to build his house. As we have seen, he entrusted the work to John Holden Greene, whose place in the annals of Providence building history is firmly established. Greene was born in Warwick in 1777, the son of Thomas Rice

¹Howard Corning, "Biographical Note: Sullivan Dorr (1778-1858)," *Rhode Island History*, v. 1, (April, 1942), p. 72.

²Howard Corning, ed., "Letters of Sullivan Dorr," *Massachusetts Historical Society Proceedings*, v. 67, p. 178 ff.

Greene. He came to Providence as an apprentice in 1794 and married Elizabeth Beverly in 1804. He died in Providence in 1850. Greene's name was associated with almost every important public building from about 1810 to 1830 when his active career came to a close. Originality and vigor mark his work, some of which suggests James Gibbs' in its bold scale. At the same time he was influenced by Bulfinch and Asher Benjamin, through them reflecting the delicacy and imaginativeness of the Adam brothers. He was fond of Gothic detail and combined it with classic motives in an effective manner.³ The Sullivan Dorr House, one of the first buildings associated with his name, shows his as well as Sullivan Dorr's interest in the Gothic manner. Its design, which varies from the typical Colonial house, is supposed to have been suggested by Pope's villa at Twickenham, a sketch of which Dorr had brought home from England. This sketch was not found among the papers, but the scheme, with its raised central section and low flanking wings, all surmounted by parapet rails arranged to conceal the flat roofs, is similar to that of Pope's house. The Palladian window, a good Georgian motive, is adorned with neat clustered colonnettes and little cusped arches of the kind found in the "Gothick Order" illustrated in the books of the English architect-writer Battey Langley. St. John's Church, built in 1810, and the Dorr house are the most outstanding examples of Greene's use of Battey Langley Gothic. The charming portico below was not drawn by Greene, but according to a receipted bill, by Richard Hill's office in Boston. It maintains the Gothic detail. The cornices of the house are coved and elaborated with a complicated running pattern of pointed arches. These, too, were executed by Boston workmen, under the employ of Samuel Bacall, who did the plastering of the house and who lists "202.10 feet of jet" for \$81.13 in his bill of December 16, 1809.

The placing of the house on the lot and the arrangement of the various appendage buildings has always been considered one of Greene's outstanding achievements in site planning. The scheme was evidently conceived from the outset.

³Edwin M. Stone, *Mechanics' Festival*, (Providence, 1860), p. 116.

Mabel M. Swan, "John Holden Greene, Architect," *Antiques*, v. 52, no. 1, (July, 1947), p. 25.

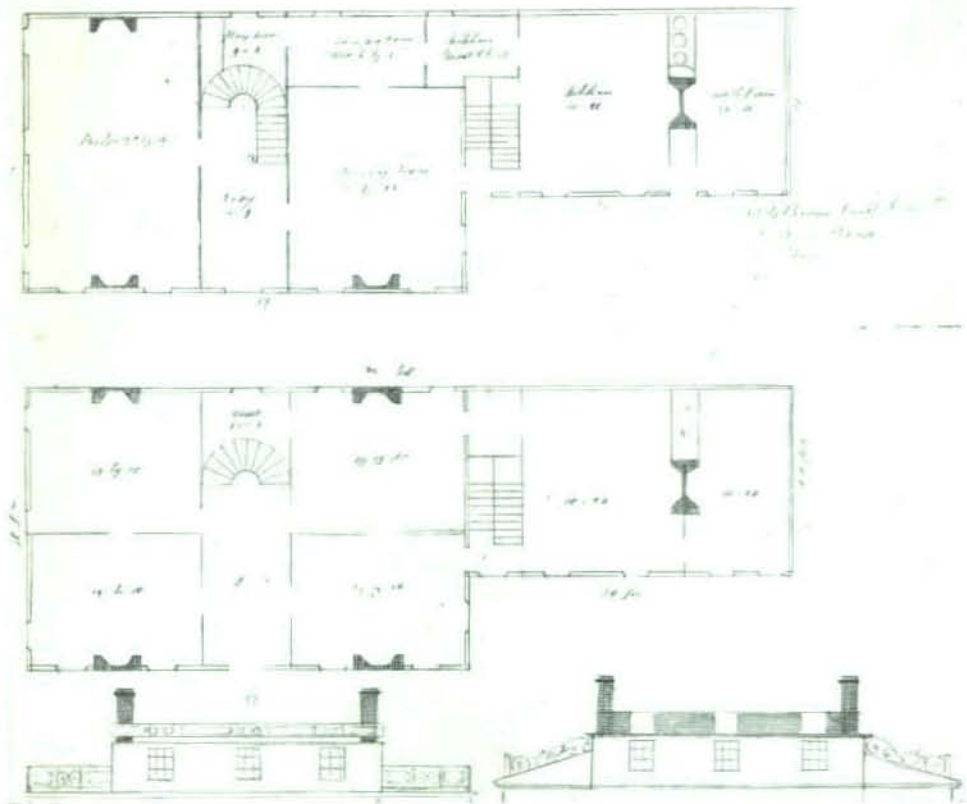
Antoinette F. Downing, *Early Houses of Rhode Island*, (Richmond, 1937), p. 410, 425-430.

Although only the kitchen wing and the barn were shown in Greene's plan, the account of Asa and Smith Bosworth, stonemasons, proves that the shed, stable, and carriage house were all built before February, 1810. A long itemized account of that date amounted to \$1220.94 and included laying foundations for the barn, the shed wall, the coach house, underpinning the house, stone under the chimneys, two kitchen hearths, cellar foundations, nine cellar steps, stone under the sink room, brick for the back walls of the house, and for the cistern. At the same time a pump was installed, probably in the sink room. A well was being dug in August, 1809.

The bills furnish further proof that the whole plan was carried to completion within the year. On November 19, 1810, Jesse Gilbert was paid \$374.64 in full for "Sundry stones for underpinning of his [Dorr's] house and front wall, including cap stones and [eight] stone steps for the front gate and delivered between the months of May, 1809, and November 10, 1809." West Pope received \$150 in December, 1809, for, among other things, paving the yard and sidewalk, "finding all the cuddy hunck stones" and "laying the nitmug stones in the sidewalk from the back door to the gate." Dorr sent a plan of the front steps of the house to John Morse of Sharon, who cut them to order and sent them in August, 1809.

Two important accounts for the main construction of the house bring to light a piece of information hitherto unnoted. These bills, paid on December 21, 1810, amount to \$3051.06 "for work building your house on Benefit Street." They are signed not only by John Holden Greene, who is called "your carpenter," but also by Russell Potter, who evidently worked with Greene and who cosigned other bills and receipts for laborers' wages. Records of Russell Potter are scanty, but the appearance of his name with Greene's is interesting to the student of early building. One of the items in Greene's account is for rum and molasses for the workmen. J. R. Balch supplied it, and his separate bills amounting to nearly \$80 for the months between April and December are filed under "liquor for laborers."

As previously mentioned an account of \$12.00 paid on May 6, 1809, shows that Richard Hill's office of Boston made the drawing for the portico. He also drew a sketch for a cornice. Isaiah Robbins, a local workman, executed the portico for \$17.50 and in 1810 was paid \$5.00 more for a "frontispease," probably the front door itself.



Mr. M. Whall of Boston made the ironwork for the front door. Carefully itemized hardware lists came from such Boston shops as those of David W. Childs, Benjamin Andrews, H. F. Barrell, and Reuben Richards. In Providence William Thurber, Seth Adams, William Jones, Simon Dean, and Aaron Man supplied most of the rest of the hardware.

Joseph Martin was entrusted with the priming and glazing of the windows, nearly all of which were filled with lights of 11 by 16 glass. He set both the "head of the vernishon window" over the portico and the "ovel window." He also fixed the glass in the "Ledden Sash" on either side and above the front door. A bill from the Boston Glass

Manufactory dated May 3, 1809, shows that Sullivan Dorr bought 350 lights of 11 by 16 glass and 110 lights of 11 by 11 glass at a cost of \$162.17.

By now the workmen were ready to proceed to the interior finishing. For some reason the large 19 x 30 foot room drawn in the plan was abandoned, and the parlor was built as it appears today, a square room of approximately 20 x 20 feet with a small writing room at the rear. Otherwise the plan was executed as drawn, with a central entry running through the house. A graceful curving staircase is set at the end of the hall; the slender rail winds into a spiral at the bottom to form a newel, and the riser ends are decorated with the fan design which appears elsewhere in Greene's work as it does in the work of Bulfinch and of Asher Benjamin. Samuel Bacall's plastering account mentions the complicated curved plastering required for this stairway: "1 circular architrave and suffeter [soffit] \$6.00."

Bacall's total bill was for \$687.36. It included about 1653 yards of plain plastering; some 900 feet of "cornishing," part with modillions; about 150 feet of reed moulding; and a "Center Peace." He charged for the passage of four men from Boston and back, proof that he brought his own workmen with him.

By June, 1809, the painters were setting to work. In that month David Burt bought 15 lbs. of yellow paint and 4 lbs., 8 oz. of sand colored paint. In the succeeding months there were so many purchases of yellow that we can be sure that the present yellow tone of the house is near the original color.

The bills show that Dorr bought marble for hearths, and in March, 1810, Chauncey Cooley of Providence made a mantel 6 feet 3 inches long for which he was paid \$7.50. On June 11, 1810, Dorr wrote to James Traquair, stonemason of Philadelphia, ordering "two marble mantles, both of clouded marble with circular hearthes and soap stone insides fitted with Iron backs and sides with 2 pair of tong-stones." On September 18, Mr. Traquair sent the mantels on the schooner *Express* together with the bill for \$263.75. On the 24th Dorr wrote to John Maybin asking him to check the progress of the work on the mantels saying, "my house is now long ready to enter save only the want of these mantles. . . ."

As a matter of fact even the wall decorations were finished in 1810. One of the most interesting receipts in the box is the one for \$417

from Michele Felice Corné, dated June 21, 1810, which reads:

To painting in Fresco two rooms in your new house as pr. within agreement	220
Painting your lower & upper front entries pr. agreement	140
Painting two front chambers with clouds & marble surbase	30
Painting two chambers in Blue & marble under surbase	12
Painting small writingroom below	5
Painting under surbase in Nursery & bed room in marble	10
	<hr/>
	417

The decorations in this house are now almost the sole survivors of Corné's rather imposing list of such work.

A good deal has been written about Corné, who was a colorful character.⁴ He was a Neapolitan, born in Elba in 1762. In 1800 he left his service in the Neapolitan army and shipped on the *Mount Vernon*. Captain Elias Hackett Derby, on her return voyage to Salem from the Mediterranean. He arrived in Salem on July 7, where he soon attained a reputation as a marine artist, painting many versions of the *Mount Vernon*. A picture of the various Derby ships painted on the cupola of Captain John Derby's house is in existence, now on the grounds of the Essex Institute in Salem. He also painted the walls of the Barnard Andrews house on Essex Street and the Oak Hill Mansion in Peabody. He decorated the Hancock house in Boston. In Bristol, James de Wolf commissioned him to decorate "The Mount," where he painted scenes from the story of Paul and Virginia and a view of the de Wolf sugar plantation in Cuba. All these are now lost.

As was Corné's practice, the Sullivan Dorr House decorations are painted on strips of white paper, applied like wallpaper. The various

⁴Helen Nerney, "An Italian Painter Comes to Rhode Island," *Rhode Island History*, v. 1, no. 3, (July, 1942), p. 65-72.

Robert E. Peabody, "A War Refugee of 1800," *Publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts*, v. 34, (February, 1941), p. 404-411.

Mabel M. Swan and Louise Karr, "Early Marine Painters of Salem," *Antiques*, v. 38, no. 2, (August, 1940), p. 63-65.

Helen Cornstock, "The Bombardment of Tripoli in 1804," *The Old Print Shop Portfolio*, v. 4, no. 3, (November, 1944), p. [51]-53.

designs were first sketched in charcoal then painted in water colors and varnished when finished. Time has darkened the varnish considerably, giving a brown tone to the whole, which was certainly not intended. The scenes are romantic, peopled with gay figures, and depict such subjects as a tropical landscape, a New England snow scene, ancient castles and ruins, a hunting scene, and a waterfall. The best known is the view of Naples, with Vesuvius in the background. The leafy decoration in the halls is particularly effective.

After the outbreak of the War of 1812, Corné made a name for himself painting the naval engagements of that war. The Rhode Island Historical Society owns one of several versions of *The Bombardment of Tripoli in 1804*.

In 1822, Corné bought a building in Newport and decorated at least one of the rooms. One small panel from this room is in the possession of Mrs. John Howard Benson of Newport; another is in the Newport Historical Society. Corné died in 1845.

This account of the building of the Sullivan Dorr House is brief in view of the wealth of documentary material now available. As we have seen, the house has come down to us almost without change. The right-hand wing has been enlarged, but the portico, with its delicate plaster detail, the cornices, the doorway, the stone walls, fences, walks, the kitchen, stable, carriage house, and shed all look much the way they did on the day in 1810 when Dorr wrote impatiently that all his house was finished except for the two mantels from Philadelphia. An extraordinarily important nineteenth century house has thus been preserved together with a file of information concerning its building, rare in the annals of early American architectural records. Its acquisition by the Providence Preservation Society insures its safety for the future.



NATHANAEL GREENE: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH BY A CONTEMPORARY, JOSEPH REED

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INTRODUCTION

ON JULY 3, 1775, George Washington took formal command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts. In orders issued the following day the general announced the appointment of thirty-four-year-old Joseph Reed as his secretary. Reed, a holder of degrees from the College of New Jersey (Princeton) and the College of Philadelphia as well as an eminent attorney, had already distinguished himself as a patriot leader in Philadelphia. Washington had met him there during the sessions of the first and second Continental Congresses, and impressed by his urbane manner and his facility with the pen, had prevailed upon Reed to accompany him to the siege of Boston after his designation as commander in chief.

Reed remained with Washington at Cambridge only until the end of October. But some time during those four months the young Philadelphian became acquainted with a Quaker officer from Rhode Island who was one year his junior, Brigadier General Nathanael Greene. The friendship which was founded at this time between the two men steadily deepened over the years which followed. When Reed rejoined Washington as adjutant general in June, 1776, at New York, he and Greene again became comrades in arms, serving together in the ill-fated campaign on the Hudson, in the retreat through New Jersey, and in the brilliant Trenton-Princeton coup. Thereafter Reed, unlike Greene, constantly shuffled from military to civil posts in the patriot cause and never rose to a major army command. Nevertheless, as a volunteer aide to Washington, Reed was a fellow participant with Greene in the major battles of the next few years: Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth.

That the relationship between Greene and Reed became quite close is strikingly revealed by Greene's action when Congress named him Quartermaster General in March 1778. He sought Reed's help in finding able assistants in the Middle States and, for his immediate deputies, settled upon Charles Pettit and John Cox. Pettit was

Reed's brother-in-law, and Cox, also related to Reed by marriage though more remotely, was one of the latter's closest friends.¹

Reed's election as chief executive of Pennsylvania in December, 1778, ended his field service with the American army, yet he and Greene kept up a brisk correspondence, even after Greene was given command in the Southern theater of the war in 1780.

The biographical sketch of Greene which Reed wrote and which is published here grew out of this correspondence. Sometime in 1781 Reed formed the idea of writing a military history of the Revolution when the war ended. He sought Greene's help in this project, asking that the general "preserve as much as possible of regular and authentic accounts of what has passed and may pass in your department with a general sketch of characters who make any considerable figure with you."² Greene replied that he would save materials for Reed.³

The time consuming demands of partisan political struggles in Pennsylvania and then Reed's failing health combined to prevent him from ever writing his history of the war. This brief sketch of Greene's life stands as the only realization of the project.

There are two drafts of this biography among the Reed papers in the New York Historical Society,⁴ both in Reed's handwriting. Though substantially the same, one version, the one reproduced here, is slightly more detailed and therefore slightly longer than the other. Neither paper is dated, but internal evidence and the chronology of the last years of Reed's life strongly support the conclusion that the sketch was written during his voyage to England in December, 1783, or upon his arrival in London in January of 1784.

That the war was over when Reed penned this memoir is clear. He speaks of the "late war," and he mentions the disbanding of the American army. It is also clear that Reed was writing for a non-American audience. In the title itself he mentions that no portrait of Greene has appeared in "this country." He explains with great care that Rhode Island is in New England and that it is now one of the United States. He speaks of the "American Army" and the

¹See Greene to Reed, Mar. 9 and Oct. 26, 1778, Reed MSS, V, New York Historical Society.

²Reed to Greene, June 16, 1781, Reed MSS, IX.

³Greene to Reed, Aug. 6, 1781, *ibid.*

⁴Volume XI.

"Americans," never of "our army" or "our troops." In the last paragraph of the paper he refers to the United States as "that country."

It is possible, of course, that Reed wrote his article on Greene in America with the intention that it be published in France or in Britain. But the fact that Reed visited England almost immediately after the definitive peace treaty supports the belief that the sketch was written there. Reed reached London in January, 1784, and remained there until August.⁵

The article on Greene grew out of a rather naïve belief on the Philadelphian's part that now, with the war over, the English would admit the errors which had led their American colonists to revolt and would hold in high esteem the men who had won independence for the United States. General Washington's life story, of course, was well known in Britain, but Reed believed that there would be great interest in the careers of significant yet less famous figures, such as Nathanael Greene.

This belief died quickly. Reed became aware that the English were far from ready in 1784 to acclaim anything American. In a letter to Greene written from London on February 12 he told of his disillusionment:

I find we have flattered ourselves too much in the belief of returning cordiality, and also indulged too much vanity in supposing that our conduct in the war, and final success, have created sentiments of respect and esteem. It is not so. . . . The general class of gentry find the Pride of Old England so mortified by the issue of the war, that they cannot speak of the country [the United States] and its inhabitants in any other dialect than that of rebellion.⁶

Reed made no mention in this letter nor in any of the others he sent from England of the Greene memoir he had written. Apparently, in view of the prevailing sentiments he encountered, he made no serious effort to find a publisher for his effort. No evidence has been found to indicate that it ever was published.

Reed returned to America in the summer of 1784. His health had

⁵Reed made his trip to England to bring his mother-in-law back to her family there, to renew business connections in London, to seek funds for Princeton College (from which he had a formal commission to assist President Witherspoon in this effort), and to attempt by the sea voyages a restoration of his health.

⁶Reed MSS, XI.

not been improved by the voyages, and he died in Philadelphia in March 1785. The subject of his biographical sketch, General Greene, survived him by only fifteen months.

In the memoir which follows Reed's text and his spelling and capitalization have been retained without change. Punctuation at several points and the footnotes constitute the only editorial addenda.

MEMOIRS OF GENERAL GREENE

IN THE AMERICAN SERVICE & LATE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

IN THE SOUTHERN DEPARTMENT —

OF WHOM WE REGRET THAT IT IS NOT IN OUR POWER TO PRESENT
A LIKENESS, NO PORTRAIT HAVING EVER APPEARED IN THIS COUNTRY

This celebrated Officer is a Native of Rhode Island in New England and descended from a respectable Family distinguished before and since the late War by their Services in the publick Offices of that Colony, now one of the United States.⁷ He is at present about 40 Years of Age,⁸ of a strong Athletick Make, but halts a little with one Leg owing to some Accident while young. He has an open manly Face, a pleasing Aspect and lively Eye. His Manners are very engaging and he has much less Reserve in his Deportment than the celebrated General who commanded the American Army in Chief. Tho he has not had what is term'd a liberal Education he possesses a clear, sound Judgment and a great Fund of good Sense & Observation. Before the War he was a Proprietor of a considerable Iron Works in Rhode Island⁹ and engaged in Commerce from which Employments he was selected to command the Troops raised in the Colony.¹⁰ In this Capacity he joined the American Army then at Cambridge investing the British Army in Boston under the Command of General Howe. His Command consisted of three Regiments then the best disciplined & appointed in the whole American Army.

General Greene's Abilities tho not so splendid as they afterwards appeared soon attracted the Notice & Esteem of his Countrymen,

⁷Among General Greene's relatives were a governor and a secretary of the colony.

⁸Greene, born in 1742, was forty-one when Reed wrote this.

⁹In 1770 Greene assumed the direction of an iron forge at Coventry, Rhode Island, founded by his father and uncles in 1741.

¹⁰Greene was commissioned Brigadier General on May 8, 1775, to lead Rhode Island's "Army of Observation."

and was particularly distinguished by General Washington who very deservedly placed great Confidence in his Talents & Judgment. When the American Army was form'd Mr. Greene was in the first Promotion of general Officers and rose to be a Major General in this Service.¹¹ In the Campaign of 1776 he commanded a large Detachment of the Army employed on Hudson's River near New York, where the American Arms suffered in Reputation by attempting the Defence of Mount Washington, a Fort [so] injudiciously constructed on York Island and [so] incapable of efficient Resistance that it surrendered to the British Army after an Investiture of a few Days with a large Garrison.¹² He afterwards had a Command in the Affair of Trenton & Princeton when the Tide of American Fortune first turned, & bore a considerable share in those great Events.

At the Battle of Brandywine where a total Defeat was given to the American Army he distinguished himself by supporting the right Wing when it gave way, and judiciously covering the whole (army) when routed and retreating in Confusion. Their Safety from utter Ruin was generally ascribed to his Skill & Exertions on this Occasion, & those of the Troops he that Day commanded. At the Battle of German Town when the Americans were again unsuccessful, he commanded the left Wing of their Army & tho the Failure was at first imputed to him as being too late in the Attack and not seasonably cooperating, the Commander in Chief is said to have very generously vindicated him from the Censure. General Greene after this continued in the Line of the Army and [was] daily rising in Reputation when he was recommended by General Washington & appointed by Congress Quarter Master General. In this new Capacity he fully answered the Expectations form'd of his Abilities [as he] restored Order, Regularity & Effect to the Department, then much deranged, and enabled the American Army to move with a Celerity and Vigour never known before. At the Battle of Monmouth, General Washington, being greatly disgusted with the Behaviour of General Lee, displaced him in the Field, and appointed General Greene to the

¹¹Greene was promoted to Major General in August 1776 while in command of the division of Washington's army at New York posted on Long Island.

¹²Greene's reputation suffered temporarily here too, for Washington's failure to evacuate Fort Washington in time was in large part due to Greene's firm opinion that it could be held. See Douglas S. Freeman, *George Washington* (New York, 1951), IV, 242-255.

Command of the right Wing where he contributed greatly to retrieving the Errors of his Predecessor & the subsequent Success of the Day.

Soon after, the French Reinforcements under Count D'Estaing arrived¹³ on the Coast of America & directed its Operation against New Port on Rhode Island in concert with a Body of American Troops under the Command of Gen^l [John] Sullivan. In this Enterprize in which his native State was so much concerned & where his personal Interest was so considerable he was sent to assist. At first every Thing appeared favourable, but the sudden Appearance of L^d Howe with the British Fleet occasioning a Change of Operations & particularly a Disappointment in an intended Attack, Misunderstandings arose between the commanding officers of the American Army & that of their Allies which boded ill to their common Interest. But by the united Efforts of Gen^l Greene and the Marquis DeFayette these were obviated¹⁴ and the Count D'Estaing soon after proceeding to the Southward, no farther Consequences ensued. This seems to be the only Interruption of that Harmony which, contrary to all Expectations, subsisted between the Americans & their Allies in the whole course of their united Operations against the British Army. And the Americans are fully sensible of the Merit of those two celebrated Officers on this Occasion, as any Dissensions at so early a Period must have had fatal Effects on their Cause.

But a Field was now opening for a more splendid Display of Gen^l Greene's military Abilities. To form a proper Idea of [this field] it is necessary to take a View of the State of the War in the Southern Parts of America. The Capture of Charlestown,¹⁵ the total Defeat given by L^d Cornwallis to Gen^l [Horatio] Gates at the Battle of Camden, with the rapid Successes of Col. [Banastre] Tarleton, had almost annihilated the American Interests in that Quarter. A general Submission of the Inhabitants both of South & North Carolina was seasonably expected. The utmost Pains were taken to intimidate all who had ever espoused the Americans, & to encourage those of the opposite Character a Post had been established by a Detach-

¹³July, 1778.

¹⁴D'Estaing himself wrote a letter of appreciation to Greene, Oct. 1, 1778, for the latter's services in healing ruffled feelings. See G. W. Greene, *The Life of Nathanael Greene* (3 vols., Boston, 1890), II, 148-49.

¹⁵*L.e.* Charleston, S. C., in May 1780.

ment of British Troops in North Carolina, & the well affected were daily joining them. The Remains of the American Army seemed incapable of Resistance, their Militia discouraged and the People desponding. Congress under these Circumstances left the Appointment of the Officer to Command in that Department to Gen^l Washington, who selected the Subject of these Memoirs,¹⁶ and he immediately repaired to his Command. His first Care was to collect the Fragments of the American Troops, reanimate the Country, & procure Supplies, industriously avoiding his Enemy flushed with Conquest & Success. In this Line of Conduct he persisted & eluded every Effort to bring him to Action. At the same Time seeing the great Importance of Cavalry, he set himself zealously to raising an effective Corps whose Operations were soon felt by his Adversary. The Face of Affairs gradually changed and by occasional Skirmishes he gave Confidence to his increasing Troops & Spirit to the Country. In the mean Time the various Marches & Countermarches, Retreats & Advances afforded an ample Field for the Display of the Talents of the respective Generals. At length, the decisive Advantage gained over Col. Tarleton at the Battle of the Cowpens¹⁷ placed the two Armies more upon a level & they met at Guilford¹⁸ where a severe Conflict ensued. A well directed Charge of the American Cavalry had nearly ruined the British Army if a Hessian Regiment had not seasonably interposed. The Action was both fierce & bloody & both Sides claimed the Victory. To whomsoever it belongs, it had all the Consequences of a Defeat to Ld. Cornwallis, as he was obliged to retreat in a few days to procure Supplies & take Care of his wounded. The Remainder of the Campaign was spent in maneuvering untill he formed and executed his Plan of marching into Virginia, where he was finally captured by the united Forces of America & France.¹⁹ Gen^l Greene did not think proper to molest him in the execution of this Plan as he certainly might have done, either conceiving that by a rapid March into South Carolina he should draw Lord Cornwallis after him, or, being apprized of the Northern Operations,²⁰ he might

¹⁶Washington named Greene on Oct. 14, 1780.

¹⁷Gen. Daniel Morgan's victory at Cowpens, South Carolina, Jan. 17, 1781, followed Greene's gamble in detaching Morgan from his own force.

¹⁸Battle of Guilford Court House, North Carolina, Mar. 15, 1781.

¹⁹Reed refers here to the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, Oct. 19, 1781.

²⁰*L.e.*, Washington's plan to march to Virginia.

safely leave him to his Fate. On his return to South Carolina he invested a Fort called Ninety six garrisoned by British Troops & Loyalists commanded by Col. Cruger,²¹ who made a gallant Defense and the Americans attempting a Storm were foiled. Success however so generally followed their Arms that the British Interests manifestly declined every Day. The Posts of the upper Country were gradually abandoned²² & the Remains of the British Troops collected in the Neighborhood of Charlestown under Col. Stewart.²³ In this situation they were attacked by Gen^l Greene at the Eutaw Springs.²⁴ This Engagement is allowed by all to have been the most bloody & eagerly contested for the respective Numbers that has been fought in the new world.²⁵ Advantages were mutually gained & lost; each was possessed of the usual Marks of Victory, leaving the general Issue undecided. But the British Troops soon after returned within the Walls of Charlestown, leaving General Greene the undisputed Master of the Country. In the Course of these Operations he has extorted from his Enemies Acknowledgments of his Bravery, Skill & Humanity, while the Inhabitants of those Countries revere him as their Saviour & Deliverer. The Assemblies of Georgia & the Carolinas have given him essential Marks of their Gratitude & Esteem by such liberal Grants of Land as must soon place him in an easy & affluent Situation in Point of Fortune.²⁶ Congress returned him the publick Thanks in Terms highly expressive of the Nature of his services, & accompanied [them] with two Brass Field Pieces engraved with Inscriptions suitable to his Merit.

Under these honourable Circumstances, upon the disbanding [of] the American Army, General Greene resigned his Command, tho he still retains his Commission & is generally esteemed the second military Character in that Country. He has married an amiable Lady of his own Country by whom he has several children.²⁷

²¹Lt. Col. John H. Cruger, a New York Loyalist.

²²*E.g.* Fort Watson, Orangeburg, Fort Motte and Fort Granby in South Carolina, and Augusta in Georgia.

²³*I.e.*, Charleston, S. C., and Lt. Col. Alexander Stewart.

²⁴The battle at this British supply depot, forty-five miles from Charleston, was fought September 8, 1781.

²⁵Stewart commanded about 1800 men, Greene attacked with about 2200. The killed, wounded, and missing of both forces totaled over 1400 men.

²⁶The legislature of South Carolina, for example, voted an award of ten thousand guineas for Greene.

²⁷Greene's wife was Catherine Littlefield. She and the general had five children, two boys and three girls.

THE 135th ANNUAL MEETING

THE 135TH ANNUAL MEETING of the Rhode Island Historical Society, called to order by President George L. Miner, was held at John Brown House at 7:45 p.m. on January 9, 1957. The Secretary read the call of the meeting and declared a quorum to be present. The minutes of the previous annual meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Nathaniel M. Vose, Jr., Treasurer, gave his report [p. 52], stating that an increase of assets over a year ago of \$29,851.59 was chiefly the result of a bequest of \$25,000 from the estate of Anna H. Chace, to be known as the Jonathan Chace Fund.

As the members stood in respect, Mrs. Axel A. Christensen read the report of the Committee on Necrology. Members who died during the year were:

Mr. Devere Allen	Miss Mabel T. Johnson
Mr. Preston F. Arnold	Mrs. Wallace D. Kenyon
Miss Sarah Dyer Barnes	Mr. C. Stanley Kinney
Mr. John W. Blair	Rev. Albert C. Larned
Mr. Malcolm G. Chace	Mrs. Augustus M. Lord
Peter Pineo Chase, M.D.	Mrs. Richard E. Lyman
Mr. Albert W. Claffin	Mr. Leslie F. Mowry
Mr. Ernest Clayton	Miss Annette G. Munro
Miss Genette T. Collins	Mr. Addison P. Munroe
Mr. Henry B. Congdon	Mr. Roger Hale Newton
Mrs. Gurney Edwards	Mr. Paul C. Nicholson
Mr. Allan Forbes	Mr. Stephen W. Phillips
Mrs. John T. Gardner	Mr. Wallace L. Pond
Mr. Percy W. Gardner	Mr. B. Thomas Potter
Mr. Frederick W. Gay	Col. Patrick H. Quinn
Mr. John H. Greene, Jr.	Mr. R. Foster Reynolds
Mr. Edwin Harris	Miss Edna Darling Rice
Mr. Garry C. House	Mr. Harry B. Sherman
Mrs. Samuel E. Hudson	Mr. Howard Sturges
Miss Jessie H. Hunt	Mr. George B. Utter
Mrs. Charles E. Hurdis	Miss Anne T. Vernon
Mr. Donald E. Jackson	Mrs. Helen C. Vose
Mr. William C. Johnson	Mrs. A. Utley Wilcox

The Membership Committee, Benjamin L. Cook, Chairman, reported that 98 new members had been received during the year, and that the total membership as of June 30, 1956, was 1636.

Mr. Miner outlined certain changes which had been made in the Constitution of the Society during the past year. The annual meet-

ing has been changed from September to January, and certain other changes were made with regard to the meetings of the Executive Board.

Mr. Clifford P. Monahan then presented his annual report as Director of the Society. He outlined the various functions of the Society, such as the collection of worthwhile material for the museum and the library, the preservation and repair of our collections, and particularly emphasized the duty which the Society owes to the State and to students of Rhode Island History. He mentioned certain repairs made to John Brown House, the expense of which was met by generous gifts which members sent in with their 1956 dues. He reported that Miss Dorothea Paull, because of illness in her family, had been forced to resign as secretary and that her place had been filled by Mrs. Francis J. Catton.

Mr. Clarkson A. Collins, 3rd, read his report as Librarian. The Society, reported Mr. Collins, has been particularly fortunate during the past year in acquiring an unusually large amount of source material for the maritime and commercial history of Rhode Island. The largest amount of this material came as a bequest under the will of Paul C. Nicholson, consisting of some sixty log books and other important manuscripts.

Other additions to our collection of logs came from the estate of Ratcliffe Hicks of Tolland, Connecticut, and from several purchases made by the Society. Mr. Collins in closing referred to the crowded condition of the present library, a problem which can be solved only when a long-hoped-for new library is built.

In a short address, President Miner outlined some of the special matters which had come before the Executive Board during the past year. He mentioned the magnificent John Brown Coach and stated that a special committee has been appointed to direct its restoration. A second project being undertaken, said Mr. Miner, is the William Greene Roelker Memorial. A room on the third floor of John Brown House is to be dedicated as a memorial to Mr. Roelker, and Mr. Wallis Howe has designed a special plaque for the wall of this room. A committee on a new library building has been appointed, and has met with Dr. Keyes Metcalf, the former Librarian of Harvard College. In closing, Mr. Miner referred to various generous gifts received by the Society during the past year, including the

Jonathan Chace Memorial Fund of \$25,000 and the bequest of \$5,000 from the late Paul C. Nicholson.

Mr. M. Randolph Flather, Chairman, then read the report of the Nominating Committee for officers for the ensuing year.

There being no other nominations, and upon motion, the nominations were closed and the Secretary instructed to cast one ballot for the slate as read. The officers being duly elected, Mr. Albert E. Lownes, who was elected President of the Society, said a few words of appreciation and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

FRANK L. HINCKLEY, JR., *Secretary*

OFFICERS

elected at the Annual Meeting, January 9, 1957

Albert E. Lownes	.....	president
Henry B. Cross, Edward Winsor	.....	vice presidents
Frank L. Hinckley, Jr.	.....	secretary
Clarence E. Sherman	.....	assistant secretary
Nathaniel M. Vose, Jr.	.....	treasurer
George C. Davis	.....	assistant treasurer

MEMBERSHIP

H. Cushman Anthony, *chairman*
 Reuben C. Bates
 Mrs. Gordon Holmes
 Mrs. Duncan Hunter Mauran
 Mrs. Richard E. Wheeler

LIBRARY

Mrs. Clifford K. Rathbone, *chairman*
 Mrs. Axel A. Christensen
 Knight Edwards
 Stuart C. Sherman
 Bradford F. Swan

LECTURE

Ivory Littlefield, Jr., *chairman*
 William P. Buffon, Jr.
 Miss Nancy A. Dyer
 James L. Hanley
 Mrs. Albert Harkness

PUBLICATION

Garrett D. Byrnes, *chairman*
 Francis H. Chafee
 Houghton P. Metcalf, Jr.
 Paul C. Nicholson, Jr.
 Lawrence C. Wroth

GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS

Robert H. I. Goddard, Jr., *chairman*
 Conrad E. Green
 J. Harry Marshall
 Mrs. William G. Roelker
 John C. B. Washburn

MUSEUM

Mrs. Charles A. Robinson, Jr., *chairman*
 John Nicholas Brown
 Mrs. George E. Downing
 Mrs. M. Randolph Flather
 Leonard J. Panaggio
 Mrs. Henry D. Sharpe

FINANCE

Harry B. Freeman, *chairman*
 Bayard Ewing
 S. Foster Hunt
 Charles B. Rockwell
 William W. White

AUDIT

F. Morris Cochran, *chairman*
 Fred Piggott
 E. Russell Davis, Jr.

The Executive Committee is composed of the officers; chairmen of the standing committees; members at large: Richard LeBaron Bowen and Henry C. Hart; Dr. Grace M. Sherwood and the director of the Society, *ex officio*.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

For 12 Months Ending June 30, 1956

INCOME

Dues	\$ 9,196.00	
Investment Income	9,227.18	
John Brown House Fund Income	186.60	
State of Rhode Island	8,500.00	
City of Providence	2,000.00	
Contributions—General	\$2,137.00	
Corporate	1,150.00	3,287.00
Patriotic Societies	250.00	
Sale of Publications, Books, etc.	436.80	
Outside Parties and Services	242.45	
Miscellaneous	161.28	\$33,487.31

EXPENSE

Salaries	\$16,316.92	
Social Security Taxes	310.31	
Director's Discretionary Fund	301.65	
Supplies	413.10	
Telephone	291.69	
Membership	727.66	
Library	1,177.44	
Museum	223.60	
Lectures	539.43	
Publications	3,205.68	
Heat, Light and Housekeeping	2,093.51	
Grounds	1,193.56	
Buildings	2,925.42	
Insurance	581.66	
Miscellaneous	330.51	30,632.14
		\$ 2,855.17

BALANCE SHEET

June 30, 1956

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 10,836.96
Special Funds	28,838.82
Investments	170,884.92
John Brown House Fund	7,955.00
Real Estate, Furniture and Fixtures	50,006.00
Books and Manuscripts	50,000.00
Accounts Receivable	922.58
	<hr/>
	\$319,444.28

LIABILITIES

Life Membership Reserve	\$ 2,550.00
Library Book Fund Reserve	536.18
Publication Fund Reserve	1,272.30
Anticipated Expense Reserve	1,112.67

SPECIAL FUNDS

John Brown House	\$ 7,955.00	
Wilbour Endowment	41,102.41	
Irene Seabury Cummings Endowment	5,000.00	
John Brown Chariot	2,297.27	
William G. Roelker Memorial	891.33	
William A. Wing (Library) Jonathan Chace Fund Reserve	980.00	83,226.01
	25,000.00	
Net Worth		230,747.12
		<hr/>
		\$319,444.28

NATHANIEL M. VOSE, JR., *Treasurer*

NATHANAEL GREENE'S LETTERS TO "FRIEND SAMMY" WARD

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

[continued from April, 1956, v. 15, no. 2, page 54]

Spell Hall Sunday August 29, 1772

Dear friend

Time is precious, and I am drove to the Necessity to neglect the Duties of Friendship or discharge them on this Day of the Week, therefore I hope youl excuse me, and Especially when I inform you it is very Early in the morning. Day stands tiptoe and the rays of the Sun begins to guild the tops of the Highest Hills and Tallest Trees.

Your Letter reacht me the Morning after the Destruction of the Forge: I sat upon the remains of one of the Old Shafts and read it. I was surrounded with Gloomy Faces, Piles of Timber still in Flames, Heaps of Bricks dasht to pieces, Baskets of Coal reduced to Ashes. Every thing seemd to appear in Ruins and Confusion. I read over your Letter once or twice before I could satisfy my self whether the surprize I felt was the Effects of the loss, or from the contents of the Letter. But upon a more strict enquiry and closer attention I found it to originate from your Letter. If you was surprized at [mine] I was still more so at yours. A persons remorse for doing wrong is generally in propotion to the consequence and oppinion we have of the person to whom the injury is done, and the agitation that a mind feels from reflection, gives it a keen attention, and prepares it in the most Effectual manner for receiving the deepest impression. Tho I was not Conscious of writing any thing in my Letter, that had the least shadow of reproach Yet I could not help feeling mortified, that I had wrote with so much Obscurity and Ambiguity as to leave your mind in doubt. I indeavour'd to recollect what I wrote. But the confusion without and the tumult within prevented my remembering One Sentence: And your Letter must have remained a secret to me to this Day, had not brother Kitt explain'd the Mistery. I ask't him if he saw my Letter, he told he did, and read it, and told you you mistook the meaning. What my Dear friend could give your mind such a twist. Did you ever discover in me a coldness? Did I not always [greet] you with a Cheerful and a friendly Face? Did I ever give you any Reason to suspect me to be a Hypocrite? How then could you think, I could suffer such ungenerous thoughts to harbour in my Boosom and not acquaint you with them by pointing out the Time, place and manner how it was done. I am not of a suspicious make. It is no difficult matter for one whom I profess an Esteem for to practice such an imposition upon me, for I am a stranger to distrust where I engage in friendship, for that Chills Benevolence, and quenches the Virtuou Flame. I had much rather sometimes be impos'd upon by those who are base enough to

betray such a confidence than always Live in perpetual Jealousy. If my Heart is capable of Love or my Soul of Friendship, I feel it for you.

There is not one amongst all my friends, whose sincerity I have less Reason to call in question than that of yours. I must be guilty of ingratitude to reproach you, and a Stranger to generous feelings, to harbour mistrust, where I have had so many Instances of candour and ingenuity. In Deed my Dear friend [I] have not doubted, I will not doubt, I cannot doubt, I know your Soul is as much above such low art as the Heavens is higher than the Earth. If ever such a thought [rose] in the imaginations, it was a Stranger to the [torn] I have never found my mind tainted with its Baneful influence, nor the Ardor of friendship damped by suspicions of Infidelity. I know there has been a contest in my Boosom between the Exorbitant passions and the superior faculties of the Soul. My Breast has been like a Theater of Strife, and a field of Battle, where Reason and passion contends with Various successes of Power and Victory. I am at Variance with my Self and am continually distracted and torn with Civil feuds of my own disturbed imagination. If ever any thing so ungenerous stole into the Mind, it must have been in one of those unhappy moments, and Vanisht at the approach of cool reflection like a mist before the Sun, for upon the Strictest examination I cannot find any such Sentiments rooted in the Heart or lurking in or about the Soul. I esteem you too much and Value your friendship too high to trifle with you in that sort. [Not] the Cruelty of tyrants the subtlety and Craft of secret Enemies, or the malice of Devils, shall ever disunite our Minds, if you continue to merit my future regard as you have done heretofore. I feel the Celestial flame to warm my Heart, and Cheer my Soul. To Love without a Reason is as absurd as it is ridiculous to resent without a Cause. Your Notions are exactly agreeable to mine. Plainness and Simplicity of Manners, stript of all the paint and Ornament of Policy, is what I ever admird, it wins the Affections by the force of its Persuasion, and Charms the understanding by the reasonableness of its precepts. If you would know any mans Affections towards you, consult his Behavior, that is the best Evidence of a Virtuous Mind. Though a persons professions be ever so Voluminous, and his Zeal ever so Noisy, Yet he is not entitld to our Esteem. But only Civility, for professions is but the Shadow of friendship and saying is not proving. If a Person would be considered in the Character of a Friend, let it appear by generous and friendly Offices, for that is the only testimony upon which we may safely ground our Esteem. If a [man] professes friendship one Day and proves him self an enemy the next, why should I give Credit to one who so Effectually contradicts him self; why should we trust any mans professions before he has prov'd them to be sincere by Noble and generous Actions. It is not always the consequence of a Benefit bestowd or the importance of

a favor done that determins our Value of one or commands our Gratitude for the other. The Value of a favor is not measured when Sentiments of Kindness are perceivd. then a matter frivolous in it self becomes important because it serves to bring to Light the Charactor and intention of the benefactor. Numerous are the Instances of this kind, which I have experienced from you in the course of our Connexion, and though they escap'd your Notice from the overflowing of Kindness, Yet they made a deep impression upon my mind, and have endeard your person to me for Ever, so that no thing but insult and wrong shall ever Efface its delightful form.

As the mind is not at Liberty to Love or admire without Cause, so it never ought to take Offense without a Reason. Insult and intentional wrong are the only injuries that can justly excite our resentment, and he that tamely submits to them, when offerd, wants penetration to discover the imposition or lacks Courage to punnish the Offender. Heaven forbid that I should ever have Reason to resent any part of your conduct. Though I Love you as a second self, yet would I sooner sacrifice all the Social Joys and endearing ties, than consent to submit to insult and imposition.

How could you think I wanted you to lessen your Esteem for your patron, by what means could I expect to bind you to me, that you was not bound to him. If you could so soon forget such numerous kind Offices as he renderd you, in leading you through all the difficult paths of Science, I say if you could so soon forget such Obligations, and it was possible for me to rival him in your Affections, Must not that have convinced me I had no better fate to expect from a temper so fickle and a Mind so ungrateful. I am not that persons Enemy, Nay I Love and Esteem him, and will always be his friend, unless I have greater Reason to alter my Sentiments than I have ever had. What part of his conduct can I complain of. It is true we generally hold a Rival in a disagreeable point of Light because we apprehend they use every argument in their Power to supplant us. Who has been the aggressor in the present Case, his Connexions were prior to mine, and if they were particular, he has had much Reason to complain of me than I of him. I am not Jealous of your regard for him. I will not harbour such a mischevous & Vile Mischreant. It is one of the worst of plagues, and often productive of the greatest Evils that attends mankind. We may be upon our guard against all other Calamities.

But here the enemy is within us, and admitted at all times to the innermost recesses of the Soul, where he acts the part of a false and treacherous friend, betrays under the pretence of Serving of us and Administers pison in Cups of seeming Nectar, and Ambrosia. I thank God I am not of a Jealous Make. I would not be tormented with such an evil not for

the Mines of Peru.

I have seriously consider'd of the connexion between me and your Sister, the way it began and the manner it has been carried on, and if I was to consult my pride instead of my Reason, perhaps I might think I had a sufficient Cause to Lay a foundation for resentment. It is the Opinion of many that a rejection is sufficient Cause for resentment, and I believe it is somewhat Natural to man to take [offence] at being repulsed, and it too commonly happens when People are disappointed of those Objects, which they most admire, that their Love and Esteem is turned into hate and Envy. Tho I think for my part these principles are bad, The Reasons that are offerd in support of them are, that the Person that rejects an offer, must do it, from feeling a certain superiority in themselves, and where a person thinks him self their equal, that piques his pride and consequently excites his resentment. This might be just, if every person was under an Obligation, from another, signifying their regard, to make an equal return, whether they merited our Esteem or not. It is true we cannot help haveing some regard for an object that has a Veneration for us. Yet we are under no Obligation from their Esteem to injure our own happiness to promote theirs. The Choice of Companions for Life are to Delicate for Reason to regulate all the operations of the mind. Fancy will have her Voice, therefore as our Choice or refusal are greatly dependant upon the internal Operations of the Mind, I can see no Reason why a Person should resent a Young Ladies refusing to enter into a Connexion with him, when she is conscious it will ruin her own happiness and not promote his. This way of thinking comes from the prejudices of Education, our Minds as well as Bodies are easily distorted, and put out of their natural frame. Absurdity is to be Learned and good Natural faculties may be improv'd into foolish Oppinions. For my own part I think a Virtuous mind and an Amiable form is to be admir'd, whether we meet with an equal return or not. Yet I think its impossible to feel for any Length of time all the endearing ties where our Affections are not mutual, as where they are. But if I was to determine this point from the Operations of my own mind I should give it against the general principles.

It is your advice to stop our Correspondence, what can I say to it. If you was to see her last Letter perhaps youd be of a different Opinion. To stop the Correspondence is to loos her for Ever, to continue it is to over whelm my self with agreeable Distress and pleasant pains. Cease to expect says Reason, and no longer flatter thy hopes with things imposible.

Kitt was charmd with his Visit at Westerly. Poets tell us that Medas changed everything which he touched into Gold; and that Medusas head, everyone who saw it into stone. Your Family seems to have an equal influence to change hard substances into the most soft and pene-

trable matter. They inspire the mind with a secret Chams [charm] and gently instill into the Boosoms the Tender passions of Love and Affection. Heaven has Blest your Family with every Virtue and good Quality necessary for your own happiness. I wish you may ever possess a becoming Zeal for the Glory of God, which will be best manifested by diffusing happiness amongst his creatures.

Poor Hannah that excellent Girl her state of probation is a test for the tryal of an Angles Virtue and patience. My Soul weeps for her, to be afflicted with the afflicted is an instance of humanity and the demand of good Nature and good breeding. There is a Gloomy pleasure in being dejected and inconsolable. Melancholy studies how to improve it self and sorrow finds great relief in being still more sorrowful! Oh my Sister! how hard does it seem to us short Sighted mortals that so much Virtue and innocence, does not Entitle you to an exemption, from pain and disquiet the proper rewards of Vice and folly. Oh Sammy! She is a Christian without gloominess. She is Chearful, but free from Levity. She is a pattern well worth our immation [imitation].

I hope you profit by her Example. I expect one Day or other to see you a good and great Man Diffusing Joy through the Hearts of your friends and Showering Blessings on the Children of misfortune. I am sorry to hear you are got very uneasy about what manner of Business you shall enter into for Life. Be not too precipitate, you have Youth on your side, reign in your Ambition. Remember the Race was not [to] the Swift, nor the Battle to the Strong. Wait with patience, but neglect no promising prospect. Trust not your happiness in the hands of Fortune. She oftens defeats us in the midst of our most sanguine expectation. Perhaps its necessary that the most guiltless Lives Should be chequered with Evils and Disappointments lest an uninterrupted flux of delights tempt us to stay in a World, which is by no means worthy of immortality.

Nancy writes me your Daddy is tormented with them confounded Noyses,¹² and that party Rage and implacable envy has had a large share in the determination of his cause. I am sorry to hear that the age is so depraved and the times so Corrupt that Justice and Equity cant Breathe in the Land. But with regard to the Peoples spight against your Daddy, I dare say heel despise the disrespect of those who through ignorance of his worth give him such ill usage. Hees a philospher at Heart and will learn to over come affliction by the hopes of geting out of it, that is a way be to hard for ill fortune itself. I wish him and all his Family all possible happiness here and never ending Joy in the paradise of God.

I shall be very glad to see your face in Coventry, where I shall be confind in rebuilding the Works for some months. I am not very well in Health. I have had a fit of the phthisick, it lasted me four Nights during which time I did no[t sleep] six [hours]. This broug[ht] on inflammation in one [of my] Eyes but I am better.

N G

¹²See note 7.



25. SIDE CHAIR

Mahogany

Probably Newport 1765-1780

The design of the splat of this chair was one of the most popular of those used by the Townsends and Goddards of Newport, but the extent to which it was used over a long period of years indicates the possibility of its adoption by other Rhode Island cabinetmakers. In this instance a precise comparison with other known Newport chairs would offer strong support to a Newport attribution. This type of splat appears in chairs as early as 1740 and as late as 1780. It appears in chairs of relatively simple design such as this one, and yet it is used in chairs with claw-and-ball feet, carved knees, moulded stiles, and shell-carved crest rails. English chairs during the reign of George II have a similar design and doubtless these inspired its adoption in America.

The chair formerly owned by Governor James Fenner

Gift of Henry D. Sharpe



26. CARD TABLE

(ONE OF A PAIR)

Mahogany

Newport 1785-1800

A comparison of this card table with the dining table, No. 7, will indicate the same origin, Newport, and almost certainly the same hands made both. What has been said as to specific attribution of the dining table can be applied in this instance as well. There are several features, in addition to the quality of the inlaid urn, bellflowers and ivory dots that give distinction to this pair of tables. Usually the hinged half of the top is supported by one swing leg. The symmetry resulting from the use of two swing legs enhances the beauty of the table either when it is open or when it is closed. Often the line inlay of the legs is restricted to one surface. In this instance three surfaces are so adorned.

Ex-collection Henry A. Hoffman



27. BREAKFAST TABLE

Mahogany

Rhode Island 1785-1800

There is a great similarity between this table and the preceding one, No. 26, but the artistry present in No. 26, has been lost in part here. This difference shows principally in the adornment. In this instance the addition of handles and finials to the urn has lessened its sophistication and to a degree spoiled its classic lines. The shaping of the urn itself lacks the pleasing proportions of the preceding one. Here the placing of the bell-flower inlay lacks the easy grace of that in the card table. It seems too close to the urn and too crowded. The bell-flowers themselves seem pinched by comparison. The line inlay at the bottom of the leg lacks the free and unrestricted loop seen on the previous example.

Ex-collection Henry A. Hoffman



28. BREAKFAST TABLE

Mahogany

Rhode Island 1785-1800

Ever since the discovery of a table, bearing the label of John Townsend, that had the style of inlay found here, there has been a tendency to attribute all tables with this inlay to Townsend. He undoubtedly used this inlay on many occasions, but so did other cabinetmakers. For those who did not want to pay the cost of bell-flower or some other more intricate design rectangular blocks of graduated size offered a less expensive inlay table. A similar table without inlay of any kind has recently been found with an old handwritten note attached to the frame saying that it was a wedding present to the bride who used it for her first breakfast after her marriage. Thus, we have additional support for calling this type a breakfast table.

Ex-collection Henry A. Hoffman

THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEW MEMBERS

December 8, 1956 — February 28, 1957

- | | |
|--|---|
| Mr. Walter Adler | Miss Anna L. Greene |
| Mrs. Charles W. Anthony
Cranston, R. I. | Mrs. A. H. Hahn |
| Mrs. Reuben C. Bates | Mr. George N. Hazard
Narragansett, R. I. |
| Mr. Randall W. Bliss | Mr. George C. Henderson |
| Mr. Louis E. Card
Warren, R. I. | Mr. R. Gordon Judd
Edgewood, R. I. |
| Mrs. Virginia M. Catton | Miss Mary F. Kiely |
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