RHODE ISLAND HISTORY

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THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INTERIM REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF
THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

This is an interim report upon the progress of our appeal for funds to pay for our new library and to refurbish John Brown House. Your heartwarming response has encouraged us all. Messrs. Bayard Ewing and Curtis B. Brooks, cochairmen of the Initial Gifts Committee; Mr. O. Griswold Boynton, chairman of the Advance Gifts Committee; Mrs. Malcolm G. Chace, Jr., chairman of the Opening Dinner Committee; and Mr. Harold E. Staples, chairman of the General Committee, have all been impressed with the deep interest which so many members and friends of the Society have displayed in its future plans.

This interest has been reflected in the contributions, which as of March 19 were in excess of $90,000. Of this sum $24,400 has been subscribed by the Board and Steering Committee; $41,830 has been raised by the Initial Gifts Committee, $11,497 by the Advance Gifts Committee, $6,256 by the General Division and $7,625 by the Business Division. It is heartening to note that these sums have come from only about ten percent of those known to be interested. When others are heard from, we should have the funds needed to complete this project in the way it should be done.

With a task of this magnitude it is necessary to call upon our friends to help to whatever extent they find it possible. Mr. Staples will be delighted to have volunteers to assist in approaching others for their subscriptions. Call 331-4020.

We made a fortunate purchase of a very suitable building. The second and third floors of reinforced concrete are already equipped with modern steel shelving and will need but little additional work, mainly for ventilation. It will be necessary to make some changes on the ground floor to provide space for microfilm, a processing room, new shelving, and reading areas. We shall then have a magnificent library structure which will make our outstanding collections available to all. Alterations are planned to provide adequate space for lectures and meetings of groups larger than those which can be accommodated in John Brown House.

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With the removal of the library functions from John Brown House our headquarters will become an even more active community center than it has been in the past. Its rooms will be freshened up and, it is hoped, furnished with priceless Rhode Island furniture.

The Rhode Island Historical Society is on the move. You can be justly proud of your membership. You may be sure that your generosity is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,
George C. Davis, President
Benjamin L. Cook, Jr., General Chairman
Building and Development Fund Campaign
houses and other buildings, listed here in geographical order, will be open on May 16, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Private houses and organization-owned buildings are listed separately.

257-269 Benefit Street, Mr. and Mrs. Achille Verrvena
2 George Street, Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Brown, Jr.
21 George Street, Dr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Barnes, Jr.
270 Benefit Street, Mr. and Mrs. Hannibal Hamlin
312 Benefit Street, Mr. and Mrs. George E. Wilson
5 Charles Field Street, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence H. Gifford, Jr.
1 Charles Field Court, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas N. Bisson
13 Charles Field Street, Mr. and Mrs. John Elmendorf
21 Planet Street, Mr. Gino Conti
66 Power Street, Mrs. R. H. I. Goddard
337 Benefit Street, Mr. and Mrs. John Nicholas Brown
368 Benefit Street, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Nelson
21 James Street, Miss Rhoda Haynes
22 James Street, Mr. and Mrs. Phineas Sprague
53 Transit Street, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Howell
419 Benefit Street, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Shepard
20 Sheldon Street, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Caswell
21 Sheldon Street, Foxes Hill Corporation

42 College Street, The Handicraft Club
251 Benefit Street, The Providence Athenaeum
15 Hopkins Street, Rhode Island Society of Colonial Dames
1 Benevolent Street, First Unitarian Church
52 Power Street, The Rhode Island Historical Society

Largely due to the initiative and help of the Preservation Society, over 75 houses built before 1830 have been restored since 1956 in the Benefit Street area. The street festivals mounted by the Society have become one of the most delightful features of the life of the city. Not only is “Festival Day” gay and colorful, but it is also educational, as Rhode Islanders and their friends from nearby New England admire the historic and handsome houses and buildings that once made Benefit Street one of the most elegant and important streets in Providence, and to this day give it dignity and beauty.

**EARLY MUSIC IN RHODE ISLAND**

V. Oliver Shaw and the Psalmon Society*

by Joyce Mangler Carlson

On October 6, 1816, the Rhode Island General Assembly passed an act of incorporation presented by the Psalmon Society of Providence, a singing society meeting regularly for the purpose of improving the performance of sacred music. Such choral groups were forming throughout New England, creating social organizations from the old singing schools which, with their itinerant singing masters, were a familiar part of community life before 1800. In February 1816 the Massachusetts legislature approved the incorporation petition of the new Handel & Haydn Society of Boston, one of a series of singing groups in that city.1

The Psalmon Society actually precedes the Boston group by several years. Although the manuscript records of the Psalmonians (now in the vault of The Rhode Island Historical Society) are dated from 1816, the cover of one memorandum book is labeled 1812. Earlier research has shown that Oliver Shaw (1779-1848),2 president of the society until its apparent dissolution in 1832, directed a group by this name in two performances for St. John’s Church, one at the old Town House on Christmas Day, 1810, while the present edifice was under construction, and again at the dedication of the completed church on June 11, 1811. During these years Shaw was music director of the First Congregational Church, succeeding Moses Noyes, one of the city’s leading preceptors and vice president of the Society.

*Continuing the series “Early Music in Rhode Island Churches,” Rhode Island History, XVII (1958), 1-4, by Joyce Ellen Mangler (“I. Music in the First Congregational Church, Providence, 1770-1850,” and “II. Music in King’s Church [St. John’s], Providence, 1722-1850’’) and William Dinnen (“‘II. Music in the First Baptist Church, Providence, 1775-1834,” and ‘IV. Music in Beneficent Congregational Church and the Richmond Street Congregational Church, 1744-1836’’). Notes referring to music and musicians at these churches are taken from these articles.


2Oliver Shaw was born in Middleborough, Mass. Blind from childhood, he studied music with “Blind Berkenhead” of Trinity Church, Newport, and Gottlieb Graupner of Boston. He came to Providence about 1809 as organist at the First Congregational Church. He married Miss Sarah Jenks of Providence in 1812. They had two sons and five daughters.
The first recorded meeting of the Psallonian Society took place on May 1, 1816, at Perrin & Hartshorn’s Building. The minutes show the members at work on a familiar occupation among organizations of the era: the preparation of a finely worded, artistically constructed constitution. Henry Cushing, a bookseller and publisher, and Luther Ainsworth, a merchant and later singing master, assisted Shaw and Noyes in the project. The opening pages of the records include the original constitution and bylaws. After routine matters of title, meetings, and officers, specific details are defined. In Article 7 a Board of Directors including the president, vice president, and five others is assigned “to prepare from time to time, a list of all the Music to be performed by the Society, and the performance of each Meeting shall be selected from such list, at the discretion of the presiding officers,” in addition to their governing responsibilities.

“The UNANIMOUS Consent of the members present shall be requisite for the admission of any member” in Article 10 was modified in Article 7 of the bylaws to read “no person shall be admitted a member but by the consent of three fourths of the members present, expressed by ballot.” One hundred marbles, an item recorded in the account books, provided the means of voting. To facilitate the ballot Article 23 of the constitution stressed that, as with many organizations, any objections to “propounded” members should be expressed privately to the Board prior to the vote.

Other matters concerned the bonding of the treasurer for one thousand dollars (Article 22), the “duty of every member, to assist in all public Exhibitions, appointed by the Society” (Article 16), and, concerning the society’s dissolution, the prophetic clause for a committee which “shall dispose of all the property, so instructed to them, to the best advantage, after which, they shall pay and settle all just dues and demands” (Article 17).

Perrin & Hartshorn’s Building was renamed Psallonian Hall. Members were assessed two dollars, the first of many such taxes, toward the furnishings. Accounts show a purchase of thirty-six chairs from Job Carpenter ($27.00), two long tables, seven benches and four chairs from the Greene Association ($15.00), and such items as lamps and candlesticks. Some members paid their assessments in materials: Henry Cushing by floor and hand brushes, Danforth Lyon by one gallon of oil and its container. An organ was located for four hundred dollars to be raised by subscription among the members; the treasurer was to pay Oliver Shaw “on demand with interest for the balance of the payment of the Organ purchased of him for the use of this Society.” The organ was insured, and permission was required for its use. Members approved practicing by Shaw, Noyes, and Ainsworth “when they see fit,” and later approved the petitions of John Newman, Danforth Lyon, and Mary Farnum.

Spring and summer rehearsals show an active group, singing from Handel’s Messiah and Israel in Egypt, the Massachusetts Compiler and Lock Hospital Collection, starting and closing each meeting with such choruses as “The Hailstone Chorus,” “The Horse and His Rider,” the “Hallelujah Chorus,” or a favorite hymn tune, all chosen in advance. Fines were collected for absence, tardiness, or early departure, except for “married ladies” who were excused for nonattendance. Due to the “peculiar situation” of Oliver Kendall, a music dealer and bookseller, and Henry Clark, a merchant, these two were also excused. Welcome Miller received two shilling for each evening’s work as custodian.

Encouraged by a successful performance at the installation of a new minister at Pacific Congregational Church on July 31, the Psallonians planned an oratorio for October. Here the term “oratorio” did not apply to any single work of Handel, but was to be a composite of choruses and solos from several sacred works, a standard practice of the times.3 The Society voted one free ticket for each member, but complimentary tickets only to members of the clergy and “such strangers as it may be deemed expedient to invite.” The remainder were to sell at fifty cents. In all, four hundred tickets were printed, plus five hundred copies of the Order of Exercises “with all the poetry adapted to each piece of Music.”

The concert was scheduled for St. John’s Hall (probably the lodge hall, not the church). Administrators of the hall were slow to approve, requiring a change to Aldrich’s Hall. After meeting twice a week instead of weekly, the Society presented its program October 16 to an audience of two hundred. Luther Ainsworth, secretary and treasurer, reported, “Every Member of the Society has abundant cause of satisfaction.” The profits paid some of the organ debt and

3Beethoven presented symphonies, usually not in their present total form, but rather composed of the most popular sections of several works.
purchased a stove for Psallonian Hall.

October was significant for the approval by the R. I. Assembly of the Psallonian incorporation, petitioned and "draughted" by Samuel Eddy, Providence lawyer and member of the Society. The month also brought the completion of a new First Congregational Church, destroyed by fire in June, 1814. Rev. Henry Edes invited the Society to sing at the dedication services, since Oliver Shaw had been employed as organist of the church until the fire. The first official year of the group closed on a happy note as the members sang at St. John's Church on Christmas Eve, an observance which still passed unnoticed in most dissenting churches for many years to come.  

The year 1817 began with an election, bringing a hierarchy of Shaw and Noyes, Ainsworth as secretary, and Henry Cushing as treasurer. Directors were Samuel Eddy, Danforth Lyon, Henry Clarke, William Aplin, and John Newman. Another oratorio was given at Aldrich's Hall on February 5, with a second performance at Second Baptist Church on February 13. Messrs. Jenkins and Dana were attendants, a tribute to their honorary membership. Regular meetings continued until a decision in April to give another concert, when rehearsals were stepped up to three times a week. Second Baptist refused the use of its meetinghouse for the program on May 14. First Baptist complied, permitting chairs to be placed in front of the pulpit.

There is no comment on the success of the oratorio. Tickets were assigned so that "those members whose names shall be in the last half of the Alphabet, shall have two tickets and the first half have one, and continue to receive them alternately." The profits were sufficient to "pay Mr. Thompson twenty dollars as an additional Compensation for altering & increasing the tones of the organ." Since neither Baptist church had an organ for use at the Psallonian concerts, the group must have either transported its own, which at first glance seems unlikely, or used an instrumental accompaniment of some sort. Considering the size of the First Baptist sanctuary, the tones of a small organ would have been entirely inadequate, suggesting the

reason for the repairs at this time. The remainder of the season passed uneventfully, with "private" rehearsals held during August and September.

The Auxiliary Bible Society extended thanks for a performance at its anniversary celebration in October. Shaw's Society presented another oratorio December 17 "before a pretty numerous audience who were apparently highly gratified." The program, held at Second Baptist, was repeated later to "a very small but highly pleased audience" for the benefit of the church chandelier fund. Meanwhile a committee looked for less expensive meeting quarters than those of Perrin & Hartsborn (fifty dollars a year).

January 1818 found the Society still at Psallonian Hall. In the annual election the usual four executives, plus Samuel Eddy, Danforth Lyon, Luther Ainsworth, John Newman, and William H. Smith, were elected. Faced with the threat of overbalancing the men's voices with increased female membership, a director's meeting voted to "recommend to the Society to discontinue the admission of female Members for the present." Mrs. Hannah Pratt, already approved for membership, was accepted. In April Joseph Muenscher, a Brown student whose family held most of the Episcopal organ positions in Providence, was admitted to membership. He was later to prove of value in his own organ services to the Society.  

An oratorio was performed at Beneficent Congregational Church (Round Top) on May 13, 1818. The Society ordered four hundred rehearsal tickets and one hundred pass tickets for its members and rehearsed twice a week, a custom now generally followed preceding concerts. The occasion passed without special note. During the summer the Psallonians met every second Wednesday and provided tickets for guests. Regular meetings resumed on October 7 with "some very just and flattering observations of the President." The group admitted Mrs. Abbey Barney and Harriet Pearson and

4Christmas was one of several holidays discontinued by the English Puritans because of its widespread secular entertainments. While it was observed by Anglican and, later, Episcopal churches in the colonies, it came only gradually to find acceptance in the dissenting churches. Christmas was a festive occasion in the homes, nevertheless.
repealed its earlier restrictions against lady singers.

In November the Society purchased six copies of Haydn's Creation and voted to "purchase of Mr. Oliver Shaw the Manuscript Accompaniment...the whole to be paid for by publick Oratorios." The members planned a concert for December 16, voting that "the Sacred Melodies lately published by Mr. Oliver Shaw be one of the Standard Books of the Society." The oratorio, held at Second Baptist Church, passed uneventfully.

The annual election in January 1819 returned the entire Board of the preceding year, with the addition of an official librarian, Sylvanus Tingley, and three auditors. A rehearsal for another concert was held February 28 and performed "with real spirit and correctness." The dress rehearsal at Second Baptist on March 2, however, took place "before little more than the bare walls," as Mr. Aplin recorded. The concert itself met "a small but judicious number of hearers who by their remarkable attentiveness and encouraging words passed afterwards on the performance appear'd to have been highly gratified." The lack of city response was a topic of long discussion at the next meeting. Josiah I. Eddy was called to tune some of the organ pipes, apparently to eliminate at least some of the group's discord.

The first major revision of the bylaws took place in April, establishing a committee of president, vice president, and secretary to audition applicants for the Society. Since all three, Shaw, Noyes and Aplin, were singing masters, they were accredited judges who might easily recommend lessons in one of their schools before accepting the applicant. The plans for the next oratorio at Beneficent encountered violent opposition from the church, causing the usually philosophical Mr. Aplin to include in the minutes a few items of gossip he had heard in the street.

It seems that part of the Committee who had been repugnant to our having it were violently opposed to it which objection however was not directly and manfully stated to our Committee but was made by Common Street conversation to individuals uninterested.

Because of the reaction the concert was held at the Town House on May 12. The Society voted to receive no more members for the present, acknowledged an invitation from the Providence Female Charitable Society, and continued with a few rehearsals during the summer months.

The fall season opened with a suggestion for an oratorio for "the benefit" of Mr. Shaw, a device from theatre tradition to enable the public to pay respect to a particular member of a troupe, who received the profits from the performance. The plan was set aside to pay tribute to the passing of Thomas Smith Webb, noted Masonic leader, founder of the Handel & Haydn Society, and believed by many music historians to have been a co-founder of the Psallonian Society. The male members of the group followed the Royal Arch Chapter of Providence in the funeral procession of their honorary Psallonian.

The Psallonian Society reassembled to plan a performance of Handel's Messiah at Second Baptist. The concert on November 30 was performed "in excellent time and style but before a very small number of hearers." The close of the year brought the admission of many new members. A new tenor viol and bow from New York was given to George Read to "take charge...for the purpose of practicing on it."

At the 1820 election Col. Job Angell replaced William Aplin as secretary. William Smith and Varnum Wilkinson joined Lyon, Eddy, and Newman on the board of directors. The ladies passed a motion by Hannah Gay for Henry Cushing to purchase "a Looking-Glass for the Society." The members planned an oratorio to raise a fund for a recent Savannah fire. The ladies, excluded from rehearsals in bad weather, came through the February storms to rehearse for the program on February 15. The Society was assisted by the touring company advertised as "Lewis' Lovely & Interesting Children." The profit of eighty-two dollars was brought to one hundred by individual members and the fund sent to Georgia. In April it was voted not to attempt an oratorio during the spring, and rehearsals were adjourned until October.

The board of directors met October 15 "to take into consideration the state of the society." The following months were filled with routine matters: the payment for "Strings, broken by the performer."

8According to Perkins, op. cit., 38, n. 2, he was the president of a "Psallonian Society," quoting a Freemason's Report. This has been interpreted as the Psallonian Society by many writers. Original source for the co-founder legend has yet to appear.
on the musical instruments, a vote to relieve Oliver Shaw of absence fines, and the admission of three new members, a Mr. Thompson, John Holroyd, a town preceptor later ordained to the Baptist ministry, and Dexter Leland, a Brown student later chaplain on the Lexington. Col. Angell concluded the year saying, "we now take leave of the present year hoping for better encouragement the Next," and recorded eight resignations of members.

The 1821 election returned William Aplin's pen to the record books, his quiet humor often brightening the pages. Directors included Danforth Lyon, John Newman, Chester Pratt, Samuel Tingley, Jr., and Oliver Kendall. Sylvanus Tingley was librarian. The winter was stormy, and few ladies ventured to rehearsals. By April 4 there was "poor prospect of performing the oratorio before next month." The Society planned to leave Psalonian Hall for quarters at Second Baptist, but also contemplated construction of its own concert and rehearsal hall. None of the proposed estimates was accepted. An oratorio was presented "to a small but highly respectable audience" at Second Baptist on May 8. Fortnightly rehearsals were held during the summer and open to all friends of the Society.

September began with "very little spirit in the majority of the members." By October 17 Mr. Aplin recorded a full meeting and plans for a concert at First Baptist on December 5. The audience for this event held a "respectable number of persons," and the performance was repeated on Christmas Day at Mr. Williams' meetinghouse (Pacific Congregational or Old Tin Top). The program for the occasion was to include "The Intercession," "For Unto Us," "Glory to God," "O Thou that Tellest," "Worthy is the Lamb," "Hallelujah Chorus," "Star of Bethlehem," and "Christmas Ode." The official library of the Psallonians now contained new collections of The Intercession, the Old Colony, and the almost universally accepted Handel & Haydn publication, which was to dominate New England church music throughout the century. The secretary recorded, "the performances were in as good style as we have ever heretofore gratified the lovers of sacred music with. . . . So ends the year 1821."

Instead of the usual January election in 1822 the event was postponed until October. The members arranged to move to new quarters provided by Second Baptist, taking their organ, and voting to "dispose of such part of the property, now in the Hall, as they may deem expedient." The Society was welcomed to the church by a special service and an address by William H. Smith, representing the church and the singing society. The regular spring concert was held April 10 to a small audience, attributed to the weather. Meanwhile the Society had to settle a bill from Perrin & Hartshorn "because the Key of the Room we formerly hired of them, was not delivered when we vacated." Few attended the May rehearsals. A meeting for May 15 was canceled to permit singers to hear the noted Methodist preacher, Mr. Malfit, at the First Baptist Meeting House. Rehearsals continued every two weeks for the summer.

At the October election the directors were changed to Judson Blake, Ulysses Holden, John Newman, Chester Pratt, and Sylvanus Tingley. The oratorio on October 30 again found a small audience. Considering that the society maintained a fairly constant membership of fifty singers during these years, each member with one or two free tickets, a good portion of the audience should have been provided. Profits of $19.25 for this particular concert would furnish, at twenty-five cents a ticket, only an additional seventy-seven people. At any rate all were discouraged and with few attending the next meeting, "The harps of the members are on the willows," wrote Mr. Aplin.

Problems concerning balloting on new members came to a head in November, several ladies continually refused admittance "there not being a constitutional majority in their favor." The male members met in December to petition for an alteration of the charter in articles concerning election of officers and the three-fourths majority admission. There was no immediate reaction to the change. The Christmas Day concert received its usual support from members and township; "the performances were such as reflected great credit on the Society."

The next year began with poor weather. A committee rewrote the bylaws for signed approval of the members. Important revisions in the articles reveal trouble in the Society. Article 6 delegated the admission of new members to the board of directors; Article 8 limited open debates and discussions to the annual meeting only; Article 13 reduced the quorum to seven; Article 9 stipulated "any member of the Society having cause of complaint, or having anything to propose for the benefit of the Society, may lay the same before the Board
of Directors."

By February a full meeting was recorded. "Prospects brighten as the Spring advances." There was a late blizzard in March arresting the progress. The spring concert was held on schedule, May 21, with Oliver Shaw, Jr., performing three pieces on the organ. He was now nine years old. In June the Psallonians adjourned until September, when it considered (unsuccessfully) moving to the Universalist meetinghouse. At the October election Chester Pratt became secretary. Job Angell and Samuel Tingley joined Blake, Holden, and Sylvanus Tingley as directors. George Page became librarian. They voted to settle with Second Baptist and dispose of their property.

November brought more problems. The Psallonians rehearsed on November 5 without the assistance of the organ, "no one being present to perform on it," in spite of the number of members with this skill. Second Baptist still plagued the Society. At the next meeting, "several went immediately away in consequence of the cold, the Second Baptist society having neglected to put up the stoves according to agreement." The following week "the stoves were put up...but were not in order for use. Suffered very much from the smoke, sung a little but dismissed early." No concert took place that season, which closed with the repurchase of the bass viol (viola da gamba) from Job Angell and Oliver Kendall, who had taken it as security in the settling of earlier accounts.

January 1824 was brighter. At the first meeting William Smith assisted on the violin, Danforth Lyon, on the bass viol, "which made our performance this evening very good." On January 14 the Psallonians were strong enough to close with the "Hallelujah Chorus." Two ladies who had been refused were now admitted through the new powers of the board. Oliver Shaw, absent through illness for many weeks, now returned. A concert was given April 12 to a "very respectable audience, performance excellent, presumed to be the best one we ever had." Singers were assisted by Danforth Lyon on the violoncello and Mr. Colburn from Taunton on the double bass. The program was repeated June 9. Rehearsals continued regularly, with visitors allowed one out of every four meetings.

On the October elections Charles J. Warren, a Brown student and later Congregational minister who had joined the group in April, became secretary and librarian. Directors were Chester Pratt, Ulysses Holden, George Sampson, Benjamin Wade, and Richard E. Eddy. A committee called on the "Ladies and Gentlemen of the Society, to ascertain who will pledge themselves to attend the future meetings of the Society." The report was favorable, and the Psallonians contemplated another oratorio. Warren brought three more future clergymen from Brown: Gilbert Fay, Jonathan Aldrich and Elam Smallley, swelling the ranks of the Society.

The concert on December 1 brought small response. Ladies stayed away from the next meetings, preventing the repetition of the oratorio for Christmas. Although a committee was again dispatched to encourage their participation, there was little success. The group voted to have no more rehearsals until further notice and vacated Second Baptist. Shaw took charge of the instruments. The treasurer, Cushing, was assigned the remaining properties. The society sold their organ to Seth Hunt for two hundred fifty dollars.

By October new quarters had been found in the Association of Mechanics and Manufacturers' building. The Psallonians rented a piano from Shaw for thirty dollars a year including tuning. Members were called to the funeral of Ulysses Holden, a tailor by profession and a member of the group for many years. "Thus has the Society at a time of peculiar trial though of flattering prospects, been called, on a sudden & unexpected manner, to part with one of its most active, respected and useful members." An oratorio took place the following month with the assistance of Danforth Lyon and Miss Sarah Shaw, who accompanied her brother in a song composed by their father. The attendance was good, and the profits enabled the Society to purchase the double bass owned by Col. Angell for $54.94 and "assume the expense incurred by Messrs. Fay & Warren in providing a carriage for the Ladies." Mr. Haddock's "Androides" exhibit took over the Hall for the remainder of 1825.

The Society voted on January 4, 1826, somewhat belatedly, to remunerate young Shaw with "some historical or other suitable book" for his services during 1823. Another oratorio took place January 24 before an audience of one hundred, repeated on the 31st. In March Henry Barney played the viol in the absence of Moses Noyes, apparently a regular performer at the rehearsals. Chester Pratt directed a rehearsal in April in preparation for an oratorio on the 19th. This performance met an "attentive, and
apparently highly gratified audience. Though quite an anomaly for an Oratorio, the weather was very pleasant, and the Hall well filled.” Another program was given on June 14.

The Psallonians accepted an invitation to participate in “the approaching National Jubilee” on July 4. A second note inviting the group to sing with other choirs from Providence was refused as “inexpedient for the Society,” and they performed alone. Rehearsals continued during the summer months toward another oratorio September 5. This program, presented before “a tolerably large audience,” was to be the last regular concert of the Society in the city. D. E. Mann was paid two dollars “in consequence of his error in making change at the door on the last Oratorio.” George Read was reimbursed for viol strings and C. C. Jeneckes for repairs to the piano.

The election on October 4 made Samuel Tingley secretary, with Job Angell, Chester Pratt, Sylvanus Tingley, Benjamin Wade, and Henry Battey, directors. The Society voted to discontinue meetings for the present. Angell took the double bass and Read the bass viol. The meeting closed with the singing of “Old Hundred.” In February 1827 Cushing was authorized to sell the instruments to reduce remaining debts.

The phoenix rose again in October 1827. After electing Angell, Tingley, Read, R. E. Eddy, and Charles Scott as directors, the Society appointed a committee to find a new hall. On October 15 “in connexion with a committee from the Rossini Association (a Musical Society),” the Psallonians arranged for the use of the same Mechanics’ Hall dividing with them the expenses of renting the hall and a piano. A few new members were admitted. Rehearsals continued until March of the following year.

The active years of the Psallonian Society were now definitely at an end. While annual elections were continued each October from 1828 to 1832, there were few changes in the board of directors. The treasurer and secretary were authorized to rent the properties at will. Chester Pratt paid for use of the viol da gamba, often used by church choirs as accompaniment in place of an organ. In 1832 the Philharmonic Society paid for two years’ use of the instrument. On October 10 the Board voted “that the funds now in the treasury, amounting to $23.20, be divided among the members, equally. There being six-teen members, the dividend is $1.45 each.” The last note of the Psallonians is an entry for October 2, 1833 when, lacking a quorum, the election was rescheduled for the first Wednesday in November.

The reasons for the fluctuating career of the Psallon Society may be drawn from its records. The inflexible hierarchy of its executives and little change of directors would be ample cause for complaint. The recurring troubles with local churches and, in general, poor response from the town of Providence are items which stand out from the minutes. Rivalry and cliques among the ladies apparently caused changes in ballot procedure, with subsequent lack of support by them. Perhaps sacred music as a social interest had simply run its course.

Church choirs in Providence were fairly strong by 1830. Members of the Society would have loyalties to their own church activities. At the decline of the Psallon Society several members became prominent in local church music. At First Baptist Church Benjamin C. Wade and Richard Eddy had a small singing society. Free-lancing Moses Noyes turned up at First Congregational, St. John’s, and Round Top. Luther Ainsworth had directed a society at Round Top in 1823. Chester Pratt came in 1829 after a year at First Congregational, where he was succeeded by Henry Barney. Danforth Lyon was interim organist at First Congregational, Round Top, and Westminster Congregational in various years.

While these semiprofessionals had been active in the Psallonian Society, the remaining membership was not necessarily very proficient. The group contained singers from various parts of town, and many walks of life—doctors, accountants, lawyers, college students, militiamen, grocers, carpenters, merchants, cabinetmakers, teachers, jewelers, tailors and tailoresses, printers and booksellers, stonemasons, a broker, farmer, librarian, coopersmith, a steamboat captain, ship carpenter, and merchant tailor. An attempt to classify the membership into a single class of interests is simply not possible.

The director, Oliver Shaw, while active in Providence music as an organist, composer, singer, teacher, and violinst, did not remain in town. He was a frequent soloist in Boston for the Handel & Haydn
Society, and for the Mozart Society of Pawtucket whose records are contained in a book identical to that of the Psallomians. The minutes of the Pawtucket group, incorporated in 1826 after a three-year history, show officers who were also Psallonian members—Amos Babcock, William Allen, and Jenerson Smith. A few Psallomians took part in their concerts, the early records including the names of Oliver Shaw, both senior and junior, Sylvanus Tingley (violin), Job Angell (bass viol), Richard E. Edye (flute), and Sylvanus Tingley and Charles Scott (singers). Jonathan Colburn came from Taunton to play his double bass, and Mrs. Graves of the Handel & Haydn Society played the organ. Moses Colburn played the violin, and his brother Marcus, later singing director at First Congregational, sang baritone. George Read and Jenerson Smith played the violin at different times.

Providence had other musical societies to rival the work of the Psallomians. Mrs. Shaw was president of a ladies' musical group, the Lydian Society, active in 1820. The Apollonian Society was chartered in 1821, its officers including John H. Lawrence, William Hale, and Dexter Leland from the Psallonian Society. This group was directed by Francis C. Schaffer, town dancing master, and continued to 1827. At this time the Rossini Association made its appearance, first mentioned in the Psallonian Society records. From issues of the Rhode Island Register for the period we discover that Oliver Shaw was also the president of this group, with a few Apollonians as officers.

As both Rossini and Psallonian organizations declined toward 1830, the Philharmonic Society appeared, also mentioned in the Psallonian records. An examination of its executive board again shows Shaw as president, with Psallomians Tingley, Lyon, Pratt, and others who had been officers in the Rossini Association. Rather than failing in his career as president-director of the Psallonian Society as implied by the records, Shaw who never seemed to find his blindness a handicap, worked with the skill of a modern corporation executive, merging one group with another, balancing one against the other, at the same time continuing to travel, teach, sing, compose, play violin and organ, and supervise the advancement of his progeny. Detecting the changing taste of the times, he made it possible for serious amateurs and professionals alike to keep up with the progress of music in America and re-educate themselves to new repertoire and style of the latest

from Europe, long before the musical domination of Lowell Mason and his many disciples.

After many years' silence the Psallonian Society organized briefly for a concert March 6, 1848, performing with a newcomer in Providence, the Beethoven Society. It was probably a final tribute to Oliver Shaw, who died in that year, and who would have been amused by the repertoire: works of Rossini, Mercedante, Webbe, Meyerbeer, and Weber. The Italian operatic style now reigned in the strains of Mosè in Egitto, controlling the musical scene for many years to come.

**Members of the Psallonian Society, 1816-1832**

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Early Music in Rhode Island

[April]

*Danforth Lyon
*James Lyon
*Mary Mason
*Polly Mason
*Oliver B. Mauar
*George Mead
*Louis Mercereau
*George Washington Messenger
*Nancy Messenger
*Elizabeth J. Metcalf
*Basket Micholls
*hNahum Mitchell
*Joseph Muencher
*John Newman
*Lucinda Nichols
*Moses Noyes
*Amelia Olney
*Ann Page
*George W. Page
*Mary S. Page
*Nancy Page
*Jane Peabodie
*Harriet Pearson
*Ann L. Peck
*Eliza Peck
*Harriet Peck
*hPhilip Peck

* charter members  h honorary members  ? membership uncertain

The Society will have an exhibit of Rhode Island embroideries at John Brown House during the first two weeks in May. It will open May 3 and will include embroideries executed in Rhode Island from the seventeenth through the early part of the nineteenth centuries. If any of our members have items in this category which they would be willing to loan for the exhibit, we would be most happy to show them.

JOHN SMITH, THE MILLER, OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND
SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS
by CHARLES WILLIAM FARNHAM
[continued from January, 1964, p. 32]

106 III ISRAEL* SMITH, b. 22 Sept. 1754; m. 6 July 1773 Mary Ballou of Peter and Lydia (Phillips) Ballou, b. 18 May 1756.487 He moved to Thompson, Connecticut, from which place he served in the Revolutionary War. He received a pension and in 1833 was residing in Brookfield, Worcester County, Massachusetts.488

IV HANNAH* SMITH, b. 8 July 1756.

V LYDIA* SMITH, b. May 1758, m. 26 Nov. 1775 Ezekiel Phetplace of Jonathan.489 She may have d. in 1832 in Dudley, Massachusetts (church record) where she may have been living with her son Smith Phetplace.

CHILDREN OF LYDIA AND EZEKIEL PHETPLACE: 489

1 HIZER Phetplace, b. 1782; d. 23 Sept. 1812; m. 1808 Lydia Smith, b. Thompson, Connecticut, a cousin, daughter of Israel and Lydia Smith, who d. in Wales, Massachusetts, 16 Jan. 1868 at 86.


3 Olive Phetplace, m. a Green and had issue.

4 Bezdlee Phetplace, m. in 1809 Margaret Thayer.

5 Zebdeee Phetplace, m. (1) in 1813 Sylvia Winter and 
   (2) Lucy Everdeen.

107 VI SYMEOH* SMITH, b. 30 Oct. 1760; d. 19 March 1836 in Burrillville; m. (1) 22 Oct. 1780 Mary Eddy of Zebphaniah and Ellis or Alice (McDonald) Eddy491 who was b. about 1761 and d. 9 May 1794 in her 34th year; m. (2) her sister, Lydia

487 Ibid., Gloucester Marriages, 3:34.
488 Revolutionary War Pension Record, S14534, National Archives.
490 Grace Olive Chapman, Ms. on Descendants of Philip Phetplace, The Rhode Island Historical Society.
491 Arnold, op. cit., Gloucester Marriages, 3:34.
John Smith, the Miller, of Providence

Eddy, who d. 9 Feb. 1844 in her 88th year. Simeon and both wives are buried in the Smith family lot on the Jason Olney farm in Burrillville. A third sister, Fredeove Eddy, unmarried, made her home with Simeon's family and d. 26 June 1827 in her 71st year. Simeon made a will 24 Oct. 1830 mentioning his daughter Sarah Olney, his wife Lydia, and was grandchildren, Jason Olney and Charles Smith. Solomon Smith of Burrillville was sole executor. The will of Lydia Smith, widow of Simeon, named Emmon Lovell, son of Eleazer; niece Alice, wife of Eleazer Lovell, and Jason Olney, with Solomon Smith as executor.

Children of Simeon and Mary (Eddy) Smith: 1 Syra Smith, who died in North Smithfield in 1811; m. Martha Sayles of Charles and had Charlotte, Simeon, Nelson, and Charles Sayles Smith. The widow Martha m. (2) Paoli Stear.

2 Sarah Smith, m. George Olney, son of John Olney, who was b. 4 Jan. 1781 and d. 18 May 1810. Their children included Mary Olney, b. 30 March 1807, who m. Duty Phetepplace, and Jason Olney, b. 18 March 1809.

108 VII Nicholas Smith, b. 22 Oct. 1762; d. 26 March 1803 and is buried in East Thompson, Connecticut, cemetery; m. Amey Brown, b. 17 Oct. 1763, daughter of Jesse and Amey (Whipple) Brown, who d. 12 Sept. 1854 at 91 and is buried besides her husband.

Children of Nicholas and Amey (Brown) Smith from data supplied by Mrs. Earl C. MacKay of Warwick, Rhode Island, a descendant:

1 Hannah Smith, m. an Eddy.
2 Elizabeth Smith.
3 Asenath Smith, b. 29 Nov. 1872 at 79 years, 6 months; m. Joseph Adams.
4 Jesse Smith, d. 25 Dec. 1810 in his 25th year.
5 Amey Smith, b. 1802; d. 15 Oct. 1839; m. Oliver

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John Smith, the Miller, of Providence

Carpenter, Jr., b. 6 Feb. 1793; d. 12 July 1858. Amey is buried in the old Aspinwall Cemetery near Putnam, Connecticut. Children of Amey and Oliver Carpenter, Jr. included: (1) Harum Carpenter, b. 1823; m. Augusta Tourtellot of Thompson, Connecticut, and is buried in Milford, Massachusetts; (2) Willard Carpenter, b. in 1823 who m. (1) Julia Angell and (2) Cynthia Colburn, and d. in 1863 at Camp Dennis, Ohio. Civil War camp; (3) Abraum Carpenter, b. in 1828; d. 1919 in Oakland, California; m. William Aldrich; (4) Ellen Maria Carpenter, b. in 1838; d. in 1920 in Oakland, California; m. Alvin A. Walker. The children of Oliver and Amey Carpenter were all born in Killingly, Connecticut.

6 Rhoda Smith, d. 21 June 1858 at 60 years, 4 months, 16 days; m. Samuel Holden Torrey. Rhoda is buried in the Putnam Heights, Connecticut, cemetery.

7 Nancy Smith, d. March 30, 1803 at eight years.

8 Fanny Smith, d. March 1800 at nine years.

VIII Ann of Nancy Smith, b. 15 Sept. 1764.

109 IX Silas Smith, b. 2 March 1768; d. in 1841 (gravestone); m. 7 July 1791 Alice Eddy of Samuel and Peggy (McDonald) Eddy of West Thompson, Connecticut. Silas lived in Thompson. The Eddy genealogy says that Silas and Alice had no children but reared Samuel and Esther Joy, children of Alice's sister.

X Mary Smith, b. 1 April 1771.

XI Zephia Smith, b. 1 Nov. 1773; d. 27 Sept. 1841; m. Benjamin Chapman of Nathaniel and Phebe (Rhodes) Chapman, b. Oct. 1767; d. 9 July 1852 at Cranston, Rhode Island. They had nine children. Their son Capt. William Rhodes Chapman, was grandfather of the late George Thomas Hart, whose manuscript on the Chapman family may be found at The Rhode Island Historical Society.

51 Nehemiah Smith (Hezekiah, Benjamin, John, John), b. circa 1731; d. 7 Oct. 1813 at 82 years, 4 months and 25 days and

52 Arnold, op. cit., Gloucester Marriages, 3:39.
is buried in the Smith-Brown plot on what was later known as the
Kohler farm, Smithfield Road, North Providence; m. at Smithfield
18 March 1773 Freelove Brown, daughter of Col. William and
Susannah (Dexter) Brown, who was the widow of James Brown,
son of Deputy Governor Elisha and Martha (Smith) Brown. She was
b. 17 April 1742; d. 23 May 1818, and is buried beside Nehemiah.

Because the gravestone inscription for Jesse Smith, son of Nehemiah,
indicates a birthdate of 1761 for him, it can be assumed that he was
a son by a first marriage, although there is no record of the marriage,
nor any marker for a first wife.

Nehemiah lived in the Wansuck section of North Providence,
close by what is now the Peter Randall reservation, on land he had
inherited from his father Hezekiah.

“Service Records . . . of Revolutionary Soldiers copied by Beacon
Pole Hill Chapter, D.A.R. . . . 1934” at The Rhode Island Historical
Society gives the following Revolutionary War service of Nehemiah:
1776, captain in the third company, Smithfield militia; 1777, October,
in Capt. Stephen Whipple’s company on Spencer’s expedition to
Rhode Island; 1778, second lieutenant in Capt. Job Mowry’s com-
pany, Smithfield; 1779, first lieutenant in Captain Mowry’s com-
pany.

Nehemiah died intestate, and a partition of his property made in
1815 is recorded in North Providence deeds following an authoriza-
tion from Supreme Judicial Court in the May term 1815. The prop-
erty, partly in Smithfield and partly in North Providence, was shared by
Jesse Smith (son), Hazael Smith and wife Nancy (daughter),
Freelove Smith (daughter), Joseph Olney and wife Phebe (daugh-
ter), Lemuel Angell and wife Sally (daughter), and Susan and
Maria Smith, children of Brown Smith, deceased, (son).

Children of Nehemiah:5

110 I Jesse Smith, d. 6 Aug. 1836 in his 76th year according to
his gravestone in the Smith-Brown plot, which would place
his birth year as 1761. Buried beside Jesse is his wife Rachel,
who d. 12 Feb. 1835 in her 76th year. A Smithfield deed in
which Jesse and Rachel deeded 20 acres to their son John
F. Smith of North Providence on 4 May 1816 identifies the
property as that given to Rachel in the will of her father

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John Smith, the Miller, of Providence

John Farnum Smithfield vital records list the marriage of
John Farnum of Uxbridge, Massachusetts, and Martha
Comstock of Smithfield, widow of Daniel, Jr., in 1756, and
the birth of Rachel is recorded 17 Nov. 1759.

Jesse was a Revolutionary War pensioner, having en-
listed from North Providence, and his pension application
gives his birth date as 12 June 1760.

On 23 Aug. 1832 John F. Smith was granted guardian-
ship over his father because of Jesse’s incompetence and
other infirmities.

Children of Jesse and Rachel (Farnum) Smith:

1 Stephen Smith, unmarried, d. in Kentucky. In 1804
when a minor he made choice of Capt. Smith Wilbur
as his guardian.

2 Martha Smith, eldest daughter of Jesse, and Capt.
William B. King of Johnston, Rhode Island, were m.
in North Providence, according to The Providence
Gazette of 13 April 1812.

3 Mary Smith, unmarried; d. 7 April 1837.

4 Nehemiah Smith, b. 19 March 1791; m. Phebe Angell
of Thomas and Aney (Harris) Angell.

5 John F. Smith, d. 24 Sept. 1879 in his 86th year and
is buried in the Smith-Brown plot. The Rhode Island
American of 14 Dec. 1824 lists the marriage of John F.
Smith and Aney Harris of Thomas. The Root manu-
script names Phebe Smith, daughter of Israel Smith,
as the second wife of John F. Her gravestone in the
Smith-Brown plot records her death 28 July 1837 in
her 28th year. Beside her are Israel, son of John F.
and Phebe, who died 7 Aug. 1837 at 3 months, and
another son, Crawford F. Smith, who d. 26 July 1835
at 7 months, 14 days.

6 Hezekiah Smith, b. 19 March 1800.

7 Aney Smith, b. 18 March 1798; m. David J. Harris.
Her gravestone records her death 9 June 1829.

8 James Smith, d. 12 Dec. 1808 at 26 years, 11 months
and 7 days. He m. (1) Naomi, daughter of Jeremiah
and Levina (Olney) Smith of Smithfield, 14 Dec.

500 Smithfield Deeds, 12:510.


502 Revolutionary War Pension Record, 821987, National Archives.


504 North Providence Deeds, 4:395.
John Smith, the Miller, of Providence [April

1806, who d. 10 Feb. 1807 at 26 years, 8 months and 5 days. They had a daughter Neomi, who d. 10 Feb. 1810. James m. (2) Patience, sister of his first wife, 20 Oct. 1808. On 24 Dec. 1808 Willard and George Smith, brothers of Patience, were named administrators of the estate of James and the widow Patience, "now wife of Luther Angell," asked that her dower rights be set off to her.

111 Capt. Brown Smith, d. 27 Nov. 1805 at 23 years, 11 months and 20 days. The Providence Phenix issue of 30 Nov. 1805 said that Capt. Brown Smith was found dead in his wagon on the road between Boston and Providence. He m. 5 Oct. 1800 Mary King of William of Johnston, Rhode Island. Capt. Brown and a daughter Eliza, who d. 24 Dec. 1808 at 6 months, are buried in the Smith-Brown lot.

The partition of the property of Nehemiah Smith, father of Brown, made provision for Susan and Maria Smith, daughters of Brown.

The Waterman genealogy records the marriage of Laban Waterman (1799-1824), son of Asahel and Wait (Brown) Waterman, to Maria Waite B. Smith of Capt. Brown and Mary (King) Smith at Johnston, Rhode Island, 31 Dec. 1822, giving her birth at Johnston 7 Dec. 1804 and her death in Johnston 12 March 1834. A daughter of this marriage, Amey Brown Waterman, d. 5 Sept. 1823 at 10 months.

Maria m. (2) 9 Feb. 1829 James W. Waterman, brother of Laban, and had Mary Brown Waterman, b. 23 Oct. 1829, who m. Emery P. Littlefield of Maine, and Laban Fairbank Waterman, b. 7 Nov. 1831, d. at Johnston in 1904, who m. Amey Jane Blanchard.

III Freelo\'e Smith, b. circa 1776. Her gravestone in the Greenville, Rhode Island, cemetery identifies her as the daughter of Nehemiah and Freelo\'e Smith and records her death 6 Oct. 1837 in her 62nd year. North Providence marriages list the marriage of Freelo\'e Smith of North Providence and Ahab Smith of Simeon of Gloucester

1984 April

1984 John Smith, the Miller, of Providence [April

1984 19 Sept. 1793. The will of Freelo\'e made 23 Feb. 1831 and approved 4 Dec. 1837 in North Providence indicates that Freelo\'e had no children surviving her. It left bequests to three sisters: Nancy, wife of Hazael Smith; Phebe, wife of Joseph Olney, and Sally, wife of Lemuel Angell; with the residue to Sally's five children: Pardon, Sally Ann, George W., Eben S. and Harriet N. Angell.

IV Nancy Smith, m. Hazael Smith of North Providence, who left a will in 1845. A petition to set off property to Nancy Smith, "our honored mother," was signed by Hazael, Jr., Henry L., Dexter B., Nehemiah and James Smith. Lemuel Angell was named guardian for Wait and Albert Smith.


Their Children were: Edmund, b. 1803; Caroline, b. 1805; Henry D., b. 1808; Eliza B., b. 1810; Emily, b. 1812; Candace, 1814-1836, unmarried, her gravestone erected by her fiancé, Col. Welcome A. Potter; Eva, b. 1813, unmarried; and Freelo\'e, 1822-1897, who m. Nelson Anthony.

VI Sally Smith, b. 20 Feb. 1781; m. Lemuel Angell of Benjamin, who was b. 4 Oct. 1782. The marriage is recorded in the Providence Phenix of 15 Dec. 1810. They lived in North Providence.

Their Children were: William B., 1811-1817; Pardon, b. 22 June 1814; m. Mary Ann Angell of Thomas and lived in Greenville; Sally Ann, b. 8 Sept. 1816, d. 1820.


509 Ibid.

510 Ibid.

15 Feb. 1836; m. William Toby and had son, D. A. Toby of Greenville; George W., b. 31 March 1818, and m. Emily Mann; Eren S., m. Abby Thompson; and Harriet, m. Zalmon Olney.

52 ENOS SMITH (Hezekiah,1 Benjamin,2 John,3 John4), b. 1 or 4 March 1739; d. 31 Aug. 1804 (gravestone); m. probably before 1765 Keziah Brown, daughter of Andrew and Mary (Knowlton) Brown of Glocester, who was b. 13 June 1745213 and d. 28 March 1830 (gravestone). Enos’s mother, Rachel Smith, had m. Andrew Brown, Keziah’s father, as his second wife on 17 Dec. 1756. Enos shared in his father’s homestead farm in Wanskuck, but he moved to Glocester. By 22 May 1766 he was of Thompson, Connecticut, when he deeded 130 acres to his father;214 was an innholder and living in Worthington, Hampshire County, Massachusetts in July 1793; and still later was of Norwich, Chenango County, New York.

The record of the gravestones of Enos and Keziah was found in a list of Otsego County, New York, gravestones published in the October 1960 issue of The New England Historical and Genealogical Register.

On 17 Feb. 1777 Enos deeded to John Brown of Providence 118 acres in Scituate and Glocester with dwelling house and other buildings, with his wife Keziah yielding her dower rights.215 Perhaps at this time he was selling his Glocester land before moving to Thompson. In the 1774 census for Glocester, Enos is listed with two sons under 16 and two daughters under 16. Their births were not recorded in Glocester.

53 EDWARD SMITH (Hezekiah,1 Benjamin,2 John,3 John4), b. circa 1733; d. in North Providence in her 73rd year as recorded in the Providence Phoenix of 16 Nov. 1805.

The writer has not found a gravestone for Edward, but gravestones for three sons, Hezekiah, Daniel, and Benjamin, were in a family plot at Fruit Hill, North Providence, east of the reservoir, where there were several rude markers. Later these stones were moved to the Smith lot in North Burial Ground, Providence, where Mercy (Angell) Smith, first wife of Benjamin3 and grandmother of Edward, is buried.

1 Edward Smith, d. 5 May 1819 at 37 years 8 months and 4 days and was buried beside his father in the Smith lot. It does not appear that he married. On 14 Dec. 1805 he was adjudged non compositus and a month later he was ordered to move from his grandfather’s house and to choose between his uncles, Joseph and William Randall, for place of residence.216

2 Phebe Smith, b. 8 Jan. 1783; d. 1858; m. James Mason and had five children: Reuben; Rachel, 1802-1865, m. 1831 Christopher G. Foster and had nine children; Amey, m. (1) Volney Foster and (2) L. Lathrop; Lewis, m. Nancy Winslow; and John, married.

113 II ABRAHAM SMITH, d. at Lynden, Caledonia County, Vermont, 17 Oct. 1842 at 77 years; m. in 1790 in Rehoboth, Massa.

514 North Providence Deeds, 3:408.
515 Frank Alfred Randall, Randall and Allied Families (Chicago, 1943), p. 94.
Abraham was of North Providence at the time of his marriage to Mary Winsor, but was of Thompson, Connecticut, 9 Jan. 1795 and designated as a merchant when he quitclaimed to his father Edward Smith all interest in a lot at the northerly end of Edward's homestead farm in North Providence which Edward had previously deeded to Abraham.522

The section of Hemenway's Vermont Historical Gazetteer devoted to Lyndon states that Abraham Smith came to Lyndon in 1801. Possibly William Winsor, who was listed as a selectman in 1800, was his father-in-law. Both Abraham Smith and William Winsor were "still selectmen of Lyndon" in 1805. Abraham was representative in 1805-06.

On 2 Jan. 1807 Abraham of Lyndon deeded to David Hawkins and Daniel Smith of North Providence (presumably his brother) a parcel of 13 acres set off to Abraham in the division of his father's estate. Mary, wife of Abraham, yielded her dower rights. Abraham appeared in North Providence and Mary in Lyndon to acknowledge the deed.523

Child's Gazetteer of Caledonia and Essex Counties, Vermont, erroneously lists Abraham as the son of Daniel Smith of North Providence and says that Abraham and Mary had ten children, of whom Harris Smith m. Adeline, daughter of Benjamin and Susan (Bullock) Walker. Harris and Adeline had five children: Oren H. of Springfield, Massachusetts; Isaac E., a Methodist minister of New York City; Walker B. of Worcester, Massachusetts; Willard S. who served in the Civil War and d. in 1863; and Susan R. of Ryegate, Vermont. Harris Smith and his wife lived in East Burke, Vermont.

Perhaps another son of Abraham and Mary was Abraham Smith Jr., of Lyndon, Vermont, whose marriage to Nancy Cobb 1 March 1835 was recorded in Mendon, Massachusetts, vital records.

The 142d Annual Meeting of The Rhode Island Historical Society was held at John Brown House on January 19, 1964. President George C. Davis called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

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

Mr. Nathaniel M. Vose, Jr., treasurer, presented his report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1963. A copy of Mr. Vose's report is printed in this issue on page 64.

Mr. Norman T. Bowles, chairman, reported for the Membership Committee that our total membership as of December 31, 1963, was 2,077 members, or a net gain of 26 members over the previous year.

As the members stood in respect, Mr. Bowles then read the necrology. Members of the Society who died during the previous year were:

- Mr. Herbert M. Adams
- Mrs. Jessie D. Allardice
- Mrs. John O. Ames
- Mrs. Samuel T. Arnold
- Mr. Ernest L. Baker
- Mrs. Henry W. Ballou
- Mr. George B. Benander
- Mr. Robert P. Bolan
- Mr. Clarence S. Brigham
- Prof. Theodore Collier
- Mrs. Henry B. Congdon
- Mr. George C. Cranston
- Mrs. Francis P. Davis
- Adolph W. Eckstein, M.D.
- Mrs. Julia Palmer Flagler
- Mr. Arthur F. Fontaine
- Mr. Mahlon M. Gowdy
- Mr. W. Russell Greenwood
- Mr. John W. Haley
- Miss Jennie F. Hart

Mr. Henry Greene Jackson
Mr. Maxim Karolik
Mr. Harold H. Kelly
Mr. John Courtland Knowles
Mrs. William Larcher
Mr. George Albert Livesey
Mrs. Earl C. MacKay
Mr. Norman D. MacLeod
Mr. J. Harry Marshall
Mr. John H. McMahon
Mrs. Edward S. Moulton
Mr. Arthur R. Paine
Mrs. Frank N. Phillips
Mrs. Warren D. Phillips
Arthur M. Potter, D.D.S.
Mrs. Irving E. Raymond
Mr. Adin C. Rider
Mrs. Winthrop H. Saunders
Mr. Howard R. Smart
Glenn P. Speidel, M.D.
Rev. Dudley Tyng

[To be continued]
Mr. Edward H. West
Miss Alice M. White
Mrs. Charles H. White
Mr. Jesse B. White
Rev. William C. Wilson
Mrs. George E. Winship

Mr. Norris G. Abbott, Jr., then rendered his report as chairman of the
Grounds and Buildings Committee. He stated that the new sprinkler
system is now completely installed and is directly connected to the
Providence Fire Department.

Mr. Robert S. Allingham, chairman of the Museum Committee,
reported that a number of exhibitions were held in John Brown House
during the year. He said that the program of restoration of paintings was
being continued, and that the Carrington Collection had been arranged
as a permanent exhibition. A photographic record of museum items is
under way. Many fine additions to the museum were made during the
year through the generous gifts of members and friends of the Society.

The publication of A Rhode Islander Reports on King Philip's War
was reported by Mr. Henry B. Cross, chairman of the Publication
Committee. The edition is limited to five hundred copies, and there are
still on hand a few at $7.75 each.

Mr. Clarkson A. Collins, 3rd, in his annual report as librarian stated
that the Society had added to its collection of Nathaniel Greene manu-
scripts and that important additions of material relating to Oliver Hazard
Perry were also made during the year. He expressed thanks to Mrs. Albert
H. Miller, Mr. J. Danforth Edwards, Mrs. Norman D. MacLeod, and
several others for their generous gifts to the Society. The purchase of
the Tockwotton Library will finally solve the crowded library conditions at
John Brown House.

Mr. Clifford P. Monahan, in his annual report as director, expressed
his sincere appreciation to President Davis for his efforts in acquiring
a new library building for the Society. The removal of books from John
Brown House will make it possible to convert the mansion into an out-
standing house museum. It is hoped to increase its usefulness by creating
teaching exhibits for Rhode Island students and by making it a center
for historic architectural research. An educational program for boys and
girls at the junior high school level is also contemplated. It is the hope of
the director to make John Brown House into a living house museum.

President Davis then called for the report of the Nominating
Committee for officers for the ensuing year, which was then submitted by
Mrs. Sidney Clifford in the absence of the Honorable G. Frederick Frost,
chairman.

1964]

The officers being duly elected, Mr. George C. Davis, who was
re-elected president of the Society, said a few words of appreciation to
the hard-working members of the staff as well as to all members of the
committees, and the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Frank L. Hinckley, Jr., Secretary
### REPORT OF THE TREASURER
for 12 months ending June 30, 1963

#### Income
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dues</td>
<td>$11,126.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments (net)</td>
<td>$31,804.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Brown House Fund</td>
<td>304.84</td>
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<tr>
<td>State of Rhode Island</td>
<td>8,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Providence</td>
<td>2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions — General</td>
<td>4,824.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate</td>
<td>830.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patriotic Societies</td>
<td>300.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Sales</td>
<td>552.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outside Services (net)</td>
<td>241.73</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>427.34</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$60,911.14</strong></td>
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#### Expenses
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>$22,792.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Security Taxes</td>
<td>694.81</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director's Discretionary Fund</td>
<td>330.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>1,482.51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>414.94</td>
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<td>Library</td>
<td>2,502.04</td>
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<tr>
<td>Museum</td>
<td>644.48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>610.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>610.62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heat, Light, Housekeeping</td>
<td>2,431.18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>4,761.17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>1,219.68</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Insurance and Blue Cross</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Insurance</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$56,561.30</strong></td>
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#### Net operating gain

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<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net operating gain</strong></td>
<td><strong>$349.84</strong></td>
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#### BALANCE SHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Liabilities, Reserves, and Special Funds</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$14,030.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Funds</td>
<td>32,916.96</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>711,718.23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td>$100,006.00</td>
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<td>Other Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$861,528.14</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>John Brown House Fund</td>
<td>$8,135.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roelker Memorial Reserve</td>
<td>340.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life Membership Reserve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building Reserve</td>
<td>12,000.00</td>
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<td>Publication Fund Reserve</td>
<td>1,768.37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Book Fund Reserve</td>
<td>1,980.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purchases Reserve (Chase)</td>
<td>834.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purchases Reserve (Wing)</td>
<td>2.81</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anticipated Disburs. Reserve</td>
<td>1,600.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>General Endowments</strong></td>
<td><strong>$723,395.91</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Use Bequests</td>
<td>56,057.24</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total General Endowments</strong></td>
<td><strong>$779,453.15</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</td>
<td><strong>$16,733.51</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Account Surplus</td>
<td>46,623.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Worth</strong></td>
<td><strong>$961,258.14</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NATHANIEL M. VOS, JR., TREASURER
THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEW MEMBERS
December 4, 1963 to March 21, 1964

Mrs. S. Stanley Alderfer
Bryn Mawr, Pa.
Salvatore Allegra, M.D.
Esmond, R. I.
Mr. Francis P. Allen
Kingston, R. I.
Mr. Alfred P. Balasco
Mrs. G. Theodore Baldwin
Warwick, R. I.
Mr. Orlando J. Bisbano
Bristol, R. I.
Mr. Lachlan F. Blair
Mrs. Edward S. Brackett
Seekonk, Mass.
Glidden L. Brooks, M.D.
Mr. Joseph E. Buonanno
Dr. Charles V. Caldarone
Mr. Hugh A. Cameron
Wakefield, R. I.
Mrs. Ambrose A. Campbell
Cranston, R. I.
Mr. Russell I. Capwell
West Warwick, R. I.
Mr. Frank A. Carter, Jr.
Lincoln, R. I.
Mrs. Frank A. Carter, Jr.
Lincoln, R. I.
Mr. Gilbert E. Case
Riverside, R. I.
Mr. Robert C. Chapin
Barrington, R. I.
Mrs. Robert C. Chapin
Barrington, R. I.
Miss Alice M. Comstock
Smithfield, R. I.
Mrs. W. Donald Coulter
Barrington, R. I.
Mrs. Gene A. Croce
Cranston, R. I.
Mr. Arthur I. Darman
Woonsocket, R. I.
Mrs. Arthur I. Darman
Woonsocket, R. I.
Mr. Jack P. Despres
Esmond, R. I.
Mr. E. Harold Dick
Mr. J. Elder Dick
Mr. Thomas P. Dimeo
Mr. Walter G. Ensign
Mrs. Walter G. Ensign
Mr. J. Cecil Ferguson
Greene, R. I.
Mr. Noel M. Field
Mrs. Noel M. Field
Mr. Richard M. Field
Barrington, R. I.
Mrs. Reginald Fitz
Mr. Peter Backes Flint
Foster, R. I.
Mr. William H. Ford
Warwick, R. I.
David Freedman, M.D.
Mr. Milton L. Goff
Warwick, R. I.
Mr. Hollis E. Grant
Seekonk, Mass.
Mrs. Hollis E. Grant
Seekonk, Mass.
Mrs. Ragnvald A. Gravdahl
Jamestown, R. I.
Mr. Paul J. Grimes, Jr.
Mrs. Paul J. Grimes, Jr.
Dr. H. W. Grimmel
Warwick Neck, R. I.
Stanley T. Grzebiien, M.D.
Mr. Clifton S. Gustafson
Mrs. Clifton S. Gustafson
Mrs. Milton W. Hamolsky

[continued on inside back cover]