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COVER

This mahogany high chest of drawers was made in Newport some time between 1760 and 1770. It is popularly called a highboy. The eye is attracted immediately to the particularly well-carved center shell and then to the fluted quarter columns, open claw feet, and the carving on the knees, similar to a Redwood Library card table, which is also in the exhibition. Every detail is in the best Rhode Island tradition. It has been lent by Mr. Elisha Dyer, Jr.

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JOHN BROWN HOUSE EXHIBITION OF RHODE ISLAND FURNITURE

May 16-June 20, 1965

by CLIFFORD P. MONAHON, director

IT IS ALTOGETHER FITTING that an outstanding loan exhibition of Rhode Island furniture should mark the beginning of the refurbishing of John Brown House, our headquarters at 52 Power Street in Providence, the beautiful mansion which houses the Society's impressive and growing collection of Rhode Island cabinetwork. Since the noteworthy exhibition, collected and displayed so tastefully at the Hunter House in Newport in 1953, furniture of Rhode Island origin has come to light showing characteristics heretofore not noted. A separate idiom employed by Providence cabinetmakers has only recently been discovered. It has seemed reasonable to assume, since Providence took the lead in the maritime economy of the state after the American Revolution, that artisans of this city should have added to the already known trends and should have gone forward in the new styles set by the social revolution in the later part of the eighteenth century.

The Selection Committee has chosen hitherto unpublished pieces and has borrowed known outstanding examples of Rhode Island furniture. Consequently, this exhibition offers a definite contribution to our knowledge of furniture craftsmanship.

The Society is greatly indebted to a loyal member of its Museum Committee, Mr. Joseph K. Ott, for his prodigious work in the over-all supervision of the exhibition. He has guided the Selection Committee, and painstakingly arranged the make-up of the catalog, which will serve with other noteworthy works as a future guide for students. The Society is also indebted to Mrs. George E. Downing for her able and constant research, which has acquainted many with John Brown



House and its founder by means of her lectures and her informative article in the furniture catalog. The Society appreciates very much the kindness of the lenders who have so graciously allowed the best pieces of their collections to be used in this exhibition. Special gratitude is due the members of the Exhibition Committee and to the sponsors, who have made the exhibition a possibility. To the members of the Consultant Bureau of the Providence Preservation Society, who have given unstintingly of their time and knowledge in setting up the exhibition, the Society gives its thanks.

The following illustrated examples give a bird's-eye view of the entire exhibition:

p. 34 (*upper left*) Although an engraved plaque on the rear splat of this armchair denotes the original owner as the Honorable Elbridge Gerry, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, governor of Massachusetts, and source of an interesting political custom known as gerrymandering, it is, we believe, on stylistic grounds, a Providence expression of a pattern current at that time. Several cabinetmakers of this city are now known to have used the Adam urn including Robert Sterry Burrough and John Carlile. Although the Hartford, Connecticut, firm of Kneeland and Adams is associated with the same form of splat, the incurve of the stile and the tapering leg of this chair have more grace than similar Connecticut examples. The chair is from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Lansdell K. Christie.

p. 34 (*upper right*) There are some characteristics in this chair rare in Newport pieces; namely, the base of the shell continues into the splat whereas more often we see the shell confined to the crest rail; the stump rear legs are usually associated with Philadelphia; the omission of the stretchers is almost unheard of in Rhode Island chair design. Other details are already known in Newport craftsmanship: the expertly shaped and bent splat exhibiting the so-called parrot's beak; the heavy ogival stiles, which give both strength and beauty of form; the claw feet with their deep webs and smooth knuckles; the balloon seat of ample proportions; the stylized shell carving of the knee. This well-made chair took shape under the hand of a competent and somewhat daring Newport craftsman. Parson Thomas Smith of Newport originally owned this set of chairs, which is now in the collection of Mr. and Mrs. E. Ross Millhisser.



p. 34 (*lower left*) This handsome and sophisticated mahogany side chair with stop-fluted legs is associated with the John Townsend era of the return of the straight line in furniture instigated by the classic revival in various art forms. The crest rail is adorned with strong, back-swept, fluted ears and a central lunette, cross-hatched and punched. The splat is one of the most highly developed of all Newport designs with its cut and worked ribbon scrolls. It has been lent for the exhibition by Mr. and Mrs. Dudley J. Godfrey, Jr.

p. 34 (*lower right*) The Hepplewhite silhouette of this mahogany side chair with its clear indication of the approaching shield-back and its tapering channeled legs is an example of the delicacy of design attained by Rhode Island cabinetmakers in the period of transition between the Chippendale and Hepplewhite styles. Its husk carved lower splat is executed with great simplicity, but with fluid grace, and is topped with an area related both to drapery design of the late classic period and the base of the kylix urn so familiar in Rhode Island Hepplewhite chairs. This chair shows pronounced similarity to a set of three in John Brown House now attributed to Job Danforth, a Providence cabinetmaker. The illustration is of one of a pair from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Lansdell K. Christie.

p. 36 This handsome chest-on-chest illustrates especially the perfection of Newport craftsmanship in the mid-eighteenth century. Here is a feeling of unity and strength in the relationship of the two members, while the details indicate the perfection of design seen in the second quarter of the century. This so-called period of *restrained exuberance* is thought to have derived its control of the curved line from the dominance of Quaker traditions and consequent feeling for simplicity in Rhode Island at that time.

The open pediment, less common than the closed in chests, is topped with boxes supporting the fairly large typical Rhode Island finials. The undercut curves of the pediment are molded, a detail of the best Rhode Island pieces, and the intaglio carved shell of the frieze drawer has the palmetto center design. Substantially carved shells top the blocking of the lower member, which continues in a masterful stroke into the volutes superimposed on the ogee bracket feet. Since this chest began its life in John Brown House, it seems most fitting to illustrate it as an indication of the type of furniture



with which the builder of this "red brick mansion on the hill" furnished his home.

It was inherited by John Brown's daughter Sarah, who married Carl Friederich Herreshoff and is most likely from the hand of John Goddard.

p. 38 (*top*) This simple but elegant dressing table illustrates, with its carefully designed silhouette and simple slipper feet, that quarter of the century in Newport cabinetmaking sometimes called *the period of the controlled curve*. The grace of the curve of the leg continuing to that of the shell carved within an arc on the apron are characteristics of this era. This dressing table is from the collection of Mr. Cornelius C. Moore.

p. 38 (*bottom*) Elements of this impressive kneehole desk indicate a piece of cabinetwork of the highest point of Newport craftsmanship. Here the block and shell as a decorative motif has been brought to elegant perfection. Unusual details of the desk include a shell carved on the cupboard door, the top drawer front hinged to produce an open writing space, and the multiple molding of the desk top. Extraordinary craftsmanship was needed to produce the deftly executed blocking, which continues to the ogee bracket feet and ends on a crisply carved volute. Highly developed brasses further ornament the surface and help to make this desk one of the most impressive examples of the Rhode Island cabinetmaker's art. The desk is owned by the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design.

* * *

THE CATALOG of The John Brown House Loan Exhibition has been very favorably received by collectors and museum curators, many of whom have already viewed the exhibition. It will be a valuable reference book as years go by. To secure a copy please use the order form in the front of this issue.

John Brown House will be closed

June 21 – August 2

while refurbishing is being done



Mr. Joseph K. Ott, chairman of the Exhibition Committee, is shown seated on a unique Newport side chair. In the background is a rare stool; two marble top side tables, one documented by a bill of sale from John Goddard, flank the famous Joseph Brown secretary.

AN INQUIRY INTO THE RESIGNATION OF QUARTERMASTER GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE IN 1780

by THOMAS L. WELLS*

DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION the problems that faced the states in general, and Congress specifically, were almost without number. One of the most serious problems was the financial instability of the government under the Continental Congress and all the ramifications of this instability.

The quartermaster general, whose duty it was to procure and distribute supplies for the army, had more than his share of problems and criticism. The demand for military equipment always seemed to far outreach the supplies available, and the Congress watched with a jealous eye all the expenditures of this department.

Into this situation stepped General Nathanael Greene when he reluctantly accepted the appointment as quartermaster general on March 2, 1778. Within a short time General Greene had greatly improved the department, and Washington said that the army was better supplied during the winter of 1778 than it had been at any other time since the beginning of the war.

Despite the improvements Greene made in the supply system, there were many problems including profiteering, strict Congressional regulations, public indifference to the needs of the army, and the ever-present lack of sufficient funds. Under these and other circumstances Greene struggled until mid-1780, at which time he finally tendered his resignation.

The purpose of this paper is to investigate the various circumstances that brought about this resignation, the heated Congressional opinion it engendered, and the varying opinions of those most closely connected with the issues.

In order to do justice to the subject, hundreds of letters had to be read, journals of official proceedings carefully examined, and varying opinions taken into consideration. As is so often true of men in times of trial, emotion as well as reason played a large part in this affair; therefore, only a partial evaluation of the causes and effects can be made.

* * *

*Mr. Wells wrote this article while studying for his Master's Degree at East Carolina College in Greenville, North Carolina, in 1960.

ON FEBRUARY 22, 1778 a committee from the Continental Congress met with General Nathanael Greene to ask him to take the position of quartermaster general in the Continental Army. The experience of Washington and his troops at Valley Forge earlier that winter made it clear that something must be done in order to secure better supplies for the army. Greene suggested taking the job for one year, without extra pay, and at the same time keeping his command in the army, but Congress did not like this suggestion.¹ At length it was agreed that Greene would keep his place and rank in the army but was not to have a command. After talking with Washington, Greene understood that this meant he could take over his command on the eve of a battle, but this understanding was never made clear, and led to later misunderstanding and trouble.²

It was clear from the outset that General Greene did not relish the job, and he remarked in a letter to Washington, "Nobody ever heard of a quartermaster, as such, or in relating any brilliant expedition."³

In assigning the job of quartermaster to Greene, Congress set a precedent that would have been dangerous with less honest men by allowing him and his two assistants, Charles Pettit and John Cox, a commission of one per cent on all disbursements and salaries.⁴

As the year 1778 wore on, it became clear that the supply system had greatly improved, and most of the credit for this improvement was due to Greene. Washington felt that Greene had done an excellent job, and in June, 1779, Congress passed a resolution declaring it had full confidence in the integrity and ability of the quartermaster general.⁵ However, Greene did not particularly like this observation, for he felt that the very idea that Congress even brought up such a subject cast suspicion on his conduct.

Early in 1779 General Greene felt that he should resign his office of

¹T. Thayer, *Nathanael Greene, Strategist of the American Revolution* (New York: Twayne Publishers, 1960), p. 225.

²*Ibid.*, p. 226.

³G. W. Greene, *The Life of Nathanael Greene, Major General in the Army of the Revolution*, 3 vols. (New York: Hurd and Houghton, 1871), II, 466.

⁴L. Montross, *Rag, Tag and Bobtail* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1952), p. 273.

⁵W. Ford, ed., *Journals of the Continental Congress 1774-1789*, 34 vols. (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1909), XIV, 695.

quartermaster general if Congress did not make certain changes in the department. He hoped to dispel the rumors about the large commissions he was getting and some of his personal investments, which he felt were causing "... jealousies and suspicions which prevailed with respect to the mode of paying for the services rendered in his department."⁶ He wrote to Washington, "I have desired Congress to give me leave to resign, as I apprehend a loss of reputation, if I continued in the business."⁷ Washington, in return, wrote to Greene that he was sorry for the problems he was encountering, especially since Washington had been instrumental in getting Greene to take the job, but asked him to stay on.⁸

After the campaign of 1778, inflation was rapidly destroying the value of the Continental currency but the states continued to resist the efforts of Congress to tax them. With these serious financial problems of inflation and lack of taxing power came more complaints about General Greene. On June 7, 1779 Congress passed a resolution reiterating its confidence in General Greene, but pointedly adding that "... there is reason to believe that abuses have been committed by inferior officers in their respective departments, ..."⁹ and as early as January 1779 Henry Marchant, a friend of Greene, warned him that there was talk in Congress of irregularities in the quartermaster department and that he should keep his fences mended with Congress.¹⁰

Events rapidly began to culminate and to make the resignation of Greene almost a certainty. In July 1779 Congress had published a list of officers in line command but Greene's name was not among them. He, therefore, asked several fellow officers their opinion as to whether or not he should be entitled to be considered for command. When a majority of them, including Washington, stated that they felt that Greene should not be allowed to command, he was all the more determined to rid himself of the irksome job of quartermaster.¹¹

⁶*Ibid.*, p. 503.

⁷J. Sparks, ed., *Correspondence of the American Revolution*, 4 vols. (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1853), II, 273.

⁸J. C. Fitzpatrick, ed., *The Writings of George Washington*, 39 vols. (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1936), XIV, 439.

⁹W. Ford, *Jour. of the Cont. Cong.*, XIV, 695.

¹⁰T. Thayer, *Nathanael Greene*, p. 259.

¹¹*Ibid.*, p. 266.

General Greene had little patience with politicians, for he had a soldier's desire for action. For example, he wrote Congress in December 1779 and again in January 1780 asking that he be allowed to resign. When he still received no answer from Congress (his letters had been referred to a committee), he wrote in February 1780: "I shall be obliged to consider its being unanswered as a full proof that it is their wish the Agents should all be dismissed; and that all further provisions for future operations be discontinued."¹² His sharply worded letters were to get him into more serious trouble with Congress later.

In March 1780, a committee from Congress went to the army's camp to confer with Washington and Greene on the state of supplies and how best to improve the quartermaster department. The committee was headed by Phillip Schuyler, the faithful friend of both Washington and Greene, who kept them informed of what was going on in Congress. The recommendations he sent to Congress suited Greene very well, but Congress, with suggestions from representatives Mifflin and Pickering, so mutilated the plan that Greene declared he could not work under its provisions. He said he was sorry to see some of the grave changes in the plan, and that he had "... only one consolation upon the matter; which is it will open a door for me to get out of the department."¹³ A chief point of controversy between Greene and Congress was over the question of his responsibility. In a letter of July 19 to Congress, he stated the degree of responsibility he would assume. Congress would not agree with him and insisted that those who are entrusted with public funds should be responsible for their disbursement. Greene's idea was that he was to have a greater degree of discretion and flexibility concerning money so as to be able to meet emergencies.¹⁴

Greene felt that even Washington did not understand the dangers of the new plan and did not appreciate the "... mortification, risk, and injury ..." one was subjected to in the quartermaster work.¹⁵

¹²E. C. Burnett, ed., *Letters of Members of the Continental Congress*, 8 vols. (Washington: Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1931), V, 99.

¹³*Ibid.*, p. 108.

¹⁴*Ibid.*, p. 99.

¹⁵J. Sparks, ed., *The Writings of George Washington*, 12 vols. (Boston: Russell, Odiome, and Metcalf, and Hilliard, Gray, and Co., 1835), VII, 53.

In a letter to Washington he spelled out his objections to the new plan. There was to be only one assistant quartermaster, and he was to be constantly in the vicinity of Congress. In addition, there was to be only one deputy for the main army, and Greene contended that this was not nearly enough to carry on the field duties of the department. The staff was not made flexible, so that, when the work increased, the staff would not be able to accommodate it.¹⁶

Events now moved rapidly. On July 15, 1780 Congress approved the new plan for the operation of the quartermaster department. As soon as General Greene heard of its enactment (July 26), he sent his letter of resignation to Congress. It read in part:

But however willing I might have been heretofore to subject myself to the fatigue and difficulties attending the duties of this office, justice to myself as well as to the public constrains me to positively decline it under the present arrangement, as I do not choose to attempt an experiment of so dangerous a nature, where I see a physical impossibility of performing the duties that will be required of me.

Wherefore I request that Congress will appoint another quartermaster-general without loss of time. . . .¹⁷

Greene went on to say that he would agree to continue in the post if allowed to use the old system, but only until the present campaign was over. (Washington's plan to join forces with Comte de Rochambeau at Newport, Rhode Island and assault New York did not materialize.)

The criticism now broke on Greene like a summer storm. In his letter of resignation he stated the "Administration seem to think it far less important to the public interest to have this department well filled, and properly arranged, than it really is, and as they will find it by future experience."¹⁸ The use of the term, Administration, so infuriated some of the Congressmen, that they immediately moved that Greene be stripped of all military rank at the same time his resignation as quartermaster was accepted.¹⁹

Typical of the Congressional resentment is a letter to William

¹⁶*Ibid.*, VI, 513.

¹⁷*Ibid.*, p. 513.

¹⁸E. C. Burnett, *Letters of Mem. of Cont. Cong.*, V, 299.

¹⁹W. Ford, *Jour. of the Cont. Cong.*, XVII, 680. See also, E. C. Burnett, *Letters of Mem. of Cont. Cong.*, V, 299.

Irvine from Congressman John Armstrong:

Genl. Greens [*sic*] peremitory Resignation in the business of Qr. M: G1. or refusal to act under the new regulation for that Departmt. at this very critical moment, has at once disappointed and thrown Congress into a degree of vexatious distress. . . . nine tenths of the difficulty arises from the importance of the present moment.²⁰ (The proposed Washington-Rochambeau action.)

It must be remembered, however, that Greene resigned, not because a campaign was getting under way, but because he felt he could not do justice to the army under the new system which had been inaugurated at this most inopportune time.

John Mathews, the only member of the Congressional committee still in camp due to the indisposition of Peabody and Schuyler, wrote to the president of Congress giving a clear analysis of the effect of Greene's resignation upon the impending campaign. He said that since the army was already on the move, Greene should be allowed to continue in the office under the old plan, and that Congress should not accept his resignation at that time, thereby throwing the whole campaign into confusion. While he did not completely uphold Greene, he did pointedly remark that, being at camp, he could more clearly see the army's point of view than Congress which was one hundred and fifty miles away.²¹

Later, in August, Whitmill Hill wrote to Thomas Burke that the committee at camp had been dissolved because they had quarreled more back and forth with Congress than they had corrected abuses, and had "... brought about the Resignation of Genl. Greene as Q. M. Genl. which Resignation was accompanied with a disresptful Letter to Congress, and was very near bringing about his total Dismission."²²

Joseph Jones, writing to Washington in August, stated that the manner of Greene's demands and the tone of his letter at that crucial time had, "... Lessened General Greene not only in the opinion of Congress, but I think, of the public; and I question whether it will terminate with the acceptance of his refusal only."²³ The implication here is that Congress might well pass the resolution that Greene be informed that Congress had no further need of his services.

At the height of Congressional indignation, Ezekiel Cornell, a close friend of Greene, wrote him that the report of the committee to

consider his letter of resignation stated:

... in these words, "That General Greens [*sic*] refusal be accepted. That General Washington be informed, and directed, to appoint a Q. M. G. That General Greene be acquainted that Congress have no further service for him." That report was taken up every day for a week, but nothing determined. At length it was agreed to postpone the report for the present.²⁴

As is often the case, time healed the worst wounds of this incident. On September 6, Joseph Jones wrote to Washington that a letter he (Washington) had written to Congress was greatly appreciated, but that "... the resentment, discovered against the gentleman alluded to (Greene) began to subside before your letter came to hand;" and, although there was still occasional talk about taking some official action, this sort of talk had "lately died away."²⁵

Charles Pettit, one of Greene's assistants who was close to Congress, wrote that "The fever in a certain house is much abated," and Joseph Reed ventured to say that the plan to suspend him "... had never been seriously entertained by a great majority of Congress."²⁶

And so go the fortunes of war. After the original heat generated by Greene's resignation, Congress cooled down and later agreed to his appointment to the southern command; consequently it is for his distinguished service in this theatre of operation that history best remembers him, and not as a quartermaster general.

At this point it would be well to consider some evaluations of Greene's resignation which caused so much trouble at the time.

Was there any foundation for the charges and rumors that Greene used his office for personal gain? The opinions are as varied as they are numerous. Thayer states that Greene invested his commissions in shipping, privateering, iron, manufacturing and real estate, and that he granted favors to Jacob Greene & Co., of which he was a member, but that the contracts were never large and Greene lost much money in these various ventures.²⁷

Wallace hints that Greene "... entered into a most secret partnership" with the head of the commissary department to sell to the army supplies as a private company, and that today such a practice would be branded as corruption.²⁸

²⁴E. C. Burnett, *Letters of Mem. of Cont. Cong.*, V, 323.

²⁵J. Sparks, *Corr. of the Amer. Rev.*, III, 78.

²⁶E. C. Burnett, *Letters of Mem. of Cont. Cong.*, V, 329.

²⁷T. Thayer, *Nathanael Greene*, p. 229.

²⁸D. D. Wallace, *The Life of Henry Laurens* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1915), p. 290.

²⁰E. C. Burnett, *Letters of Mem. of Cont. Cong.*, V, 307.

²¹*Ibid.*, p. 309-11.

²²*Ibid.*, p. 340.

²³J. Sparks, *Corr. of the Amer. Rev.*, III, 53.

What then may be said in Greene's behalf? A great deal. There is no record of his having ever borrowed public money for private use. The fact that he wanted to cut down expenditures in April 1778 took much of the sting out of the accusations that he spent money recklessly in order to increase his commissions.²⁹ It must also be remembered that by mid-1779 Greene, on his own initiative, agreed to give up his commissions in order to quiet rumors about himself.

Another point that must be taken into consideration was that because Greene and Thomas Mifflin never saw eye to eye, Greene felt that Mifflin was trying to undermine his reputation.³⁰ This also seems to bear out the theory that at the time of Greene's resignation, the party that disliked Washington was on the ascendancy in Congress, and while they were still unable to besmirch Washington, they did try to vent their wrath on General Greene.³¹

Greene had accepted the position of quartermaster general with great reluctance, and did so only out of a great sense of duty. When he considered the department to be in good shape, he then felt relieved of his obligation and was determined to resign, for his inclination had always been toward tactics and line command and not supply.³²

In summary it should be said that General Nathanael Greene resigned his post as quartermaster general because of pressures mostly from within himself, and his fear of "a loss of reputation." These trying years were enough to tax the patience of Job. An impatient Congress, selfish states, public indifference, and almost financial bankruptcy of the states and Congress all went to make Greene's job nearly impossible. Couple this with the jealousy that existed in Congress and the army, and one can begin to see what a thankless task it was. Small wonder that, after wrestling with the problems for two years, he felt it was time to resign.

In the end, his decision to resign was based upon what he described as an unworkable new system and his personal yearning for line command. If this episode may in any way be considered a blot on his record, he more than redeemed himself during the southern campaign.

²⁹T. Thayer, *Nathanael Greene*, p. 238.

³⁰J. C. Fitzpatrick, ed., *The Writings of George Washington*, XVIII, 157. See also, E. C. Burnett, *Letters of Mem. of Cont. Cong.*, V, 99n.

³¹W. G. Simms, *The Life of Nathanael Greene* (New York: George F. Cooledge & Brother, 1849), p. 88.

³²C. Caldwell, *Memoirs of the Life and Campaign of the Hon. Nathanael Greene* (Philadelphia: Robert Desilver, 1819), p. 75.

A LETTER FROM WILLIAM ELLERY TO HENRY MARCHANT

Edited by CLIFFORD P. MONAHAN and CLARKSON A. COLLINS, 3RD

AMONG THE IMPORTANT MANUSCRIPTS purchased by the Society in the recent past is a letter from William Ellery¹ (afterward a signer of the Declaration of Independence) to Henry Marchant,² attorney general of Rhode Island. For a year Newport had been menaced by the guns of a British squadron commanded by Captain James Wallace.³

Wallace had on several occasions threatened to bombard the town, and matters again came to a head when the General Assembly, in October 1775, voted to raise a regiment of five hundred men, which, with the Newport County militia, was to serve under Esek Hopkins, who was given the rank of brigadier general. With a Rhode Island force in the immediate vicinity of Newport, the British commander warned the town that unless the troops withdrew it could expect to be destroyed. Many of the Patriot faction had left and the Tories dominated the town meeting which Ellery describes.

Newport Novr. 6th 1775

Dear Sir

I got home last Evening, This Forenoon I heard a Drum beat, and upon Inquiry found that it was to warn a Meeting of the Town at 3 o'Clock in the Afternoon. About Noon I went to the Printing Office.⁴ The Occasion of the Meeting was the Subject. I found that the utmost Pains had been taken while I was absent to persuade the People that it was best that the Troops should be removed to a greater Distance from the Town, That you and I had been represented as Persons who wished the Destruction of the Town, and the Secry⁵ had not escaped the Lash of malicious Tongues.—When I was at the Assembly I had mentioned to John Wanton,⁶ "that if the Town must be destroyed let Us have a Frolick for it" meaning that we ought not tamely to permit it without making an Opposition. This was represented in this Light, that I wished the Town might be burnt that I might enjoy and frolick amidst the Flames, as Boys do round a Bonfire: And it was boldly asserted that you had said it was best the Town should be destroyed. You may depend upon it I contradicted the latter, and endeavored to place what had been said with Regard to myself in its true Light, and that I did not forget to vindicate Mr. Ward.—The Pains that had been taken to influence the Minds of the People were not lost, for many even of the genuine Friends of Liberty were persuaded to beleive that if they should vote to petition General

Hopkins⁷ to remove the Troops at a greater Distance from the Town, they should please Capt Wallace thereby and the Town would not be cannonaded even if he should not move his Head Quarters—It was too late, there was not Time to set the People right.—I went to the Town Meeting as soon as the Clock struck Three. When I entered the Meeting I immediately was confirmed in what I had suspected that great Pains had been taken, as great as ever was taken at an electioneering to delude the People; for I saw that the Meeting was full, and that the Bench was lined with Charles Wickham,⁸ Thomas Wickham junr.,⁹ Silas Cooke,¹⁰ James Honyman,¹¹ William Wanton,¹² Joseph G. Wanton,¹³ &c &c &c., to awe the Sons and to carry the Point. All the Tories in Town were mustered. There were Drs. Hunter¹⁴ and Halliburton,¹⁵ Keith,¹⁶ Thos. Vernon,¹⁷ Richard Beal,¹⁸ Comptroller Nichols,¹⁹ John²⁰ & Sam Bours,²¹ Edward Thurston,²² your *old Friend*, &c. &c. &c. Besides a Number who through Fear or a Love of Interest seemed strangely to have shifted their political Characters, and a great Number of Friends (Quakers) such as Tommy Robinson,²³ Jabez Carpenter,²⁴ Philip Wanton,²⁵ Johnny Hadwen,²⁶ Goddards,²⁷ &c &c all cocked and primed to vote for the Removal of the Troops. Job Bennet²⁸ was in the Chair, and John Mawdsley²⁹ just concluding an Account of what had passed in the Assembly—I pressed forward thro' the Crowd to the South End of the Table, and desired to be informed what was proposed to be done, and was told by the Moderator that it had been moved that Genl. Hopkins should be petitioned to remove his Head Quarters to a greater Distance from the Town, and seconded. I desired that the previous Question might be put, to wit, Whether any such Motion ought to be made or not, and opposed the making any such motion, and would have offered my Reasons but was interrupted and insulted from every Quarter. The Question was put by hand, and a great Majority of Hands were for the Motions being made. Whereupon there was a Hurra!—The Vote then was whether the Troops should be removed or not—Those who were for a Removal insisted upon a written Vote, and accordingly they had it. The Table was surrounded by Men fitted for the Purpose, and George Gibbs & Sam Bours mounted the Hustings and bellowed for the Town of Newport, while proper Persons were spreading their Votes. It was difficult to get Votes for the other Side—It was in vain to attempt any Thing, and to be insulted was disagreeable. I therefore left the Meeting—The Majority for petitioning a Removal was about 4 to 1.—I am confident that if the Inhabitants had not been tampered with and by such hands as Col. Wanton³⁰ & John Reid³¹ &c. &c., not withstanding many of the prime Sons of Freedom have left the Town, the Vote would

have been against a Removal—George Sears³² can tell you more than I can write.—The Determination of the Meeting is not indeed of any great Consequence; for I presume General Hopkins will not move his Troops hither and thither just as a Town Meeting may direct; especially a Newport Town Meeting so collected, so principled and so disposed—If they should be removed to Portsmouth³³ the Stock on the South Part of the Island will be exposed, unless it should be drove back to the North of Middletown,³⁴ and in that Case it would starve for Want of Food, and which is of greater,—of the greatest Consequence the Enemy might take Possession of the Town and so of the Island,³⁵ before the Troops could march in and prevent it. But it is not altogether agreeable to suffer the Triumphs of Tories. However, I have done, and hope I shall still have Spirit to do what I think is my Duty so long as I shall continue in the Town, and wherever I may be I will pray for its Prosperity. Show this Letter to Genl. Hopkins, Mr. Ward, my Brother³⁶ and such others as you may think proper. I am Yrs Affectionately

William Ellery

N.B. George Rome³⁷ was not at the
Town Meeting which I am surprised at.

Novr. 6th 1775

Mr. Marchant

Please to tell Thomas Corey³⁸ that I must have the Notes Saml. Durfee³⁹ &c vs Wm. Burrington⁴⁰ and Saml. Durfee vs Oliver Cooke⁴¹ to morrow or the next Day at furthest. I shall want them for filing Declarations—

W Ellery

[Superscription] To
Henry Marchant Esq—
in Providence

[Docketed]
Letter from
Wm. Ellery Esq.
dated Newport
Novr. 6, 1775

¹William Ellery (Dec. 22, 1727–Feb. 15, 1820) was a graduate of Harvard in the class of 1747. Active in the Patriot cause, he was elected to Congress by the General Assembly in 1776 and was re-elected each year until 1786, with the exception of 1780 and 1782. In those two years he held offices by government appointment. After retiring from the Congress he served as commissioner of the Continental Loan Office for Rhode Island, 1780–90, and Collector of the Customs at Newport, 1790–1820.

²Henry Marchant was born at Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, in 1741 and died at Newport, Rhode Island, August 30, 1796. He was attorney general of the Colony from 1770 to 1777 and a delegate to the Continental Congress.

³See "The Patrol of Narragansett Bay (1774-76) by H.M.S. *Rose*, Captain James Wallace." *Rhode Island History*, January, 1948, and following issues.

⁴Solomon Southwick's printing office at this time was on Queen's Street, near the middle of the Parade.

⁵Henry Ward (1732-1797), brother of Governor Samuel Ward, served as Secretary of State of Rhode Island from 1760 to 1797.

⁶John Wanton may have been John (1723-97), son of John and Ann (Redwood) Wanton or John (1748/9-1806), son of James and Patience (-----) Wanton. A John Wanton was a deputy from Newport in the General Assembly in a number of years between 1764 and 1776.

⁷At the November Session of the General Assembly an act had been passed providing for the raising of a regiment of 500 men enlisted for a term of one year. This regiment and the militia regiments of Newport County were placed under the command of Esek Hopkins, who was given the rank of brigadier general.

⁸Charles Wickham was an original member of the Redwood Library and active in the affairs of Trinity Church.

⁹Thomas Wickham, Jr. (b. 1730) was the son of Thomas and Hannah (Brewer) Wickham.

¹⁰Silas Cooke, merchant of Newport, was director of a lottery for paying the lower end of Thames Street in 1761. There were several persons of this name in the colony, but it seems probable that Silas Cooke of Newport is the one who was first lieutenant in Major Angell's company in 1756 and served in the General Assembly as assistant in 1768.

Silas Cooke, Jr., was removed from Newport County to South Kingstown for refusing to subscribe to the test act in 1776.

¹¹James Honeyman (1710-78) was the son of the Rev. James Honeyman of Trinity Church. He was the last Royal Advocate-General of the Court of Vice-Admiralty in Rhode Island and Attorney General of Rhode Island, 1732-41.

¹²William Wanton (1734-1816) was the son of Governor Joseph Wanton. A loyalist, he settled at St. John's, New Brunswick, and was collector of the customs from 1780 until his death. His wife was Elizabeth, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Goulding) Honeyman.

¹³Joseph G. Wanton was a son of Governor Gideon Wanton. He was born Nov. 5, 1720 and died in 1782 in Providence, where he had been a merchant.

¹⁴Dr. William Hunter, an eminent physician, was educated at Edinburgh. He was a distinguished lecturer on anatomy. Dr. Hunter came to America in 1752 and settled in Newport, where he espoused the cause of the Crown. He died in 1778.

¹⁵Dr. Halliburton, suspected of holding treasonable correspondence with Great Britain, escaped to New York and from there removed to Nova Scotia, where he died in 1807. His wife was Susannah, daughter of Jahleel Brenton.

¹⁶Dr. James Keith was in 1788 an addresser of Lord Howe and of Sir Peter Parker.

¹⁷Thomas Vernon was born in Newport May 31, 1718 and died there May 1, 1784. He was appointed Royal Postmaster in 1745 and continued in his office until 1775 or 1776. He was a warden of Trinity Church in 1752 and secretary of the Redwood Library from 1753 to 1771. His loyalty to the Crown cost him his official positions and his income.

¹⁸Richard Beal of Newport was an officer of the Customs. In December, 1775, he refused to take the oath of fidelity tendered by General Lee to persons in Rhode Island who were obnoxious to the Whigs and was put under guard and taken to Providence. He was a brother-in-law of the Thomas Vernon mentioned in Note 17.

¹⁹J. Nichols was Comptroller of the Customs from 1767 until the outbreak of hostilities. His difficulties with the popular party were incessant. In one case he fled on board the *Cygnnet* sloop-of-war and refused to return to duty without promise of protection.

²⁰John Bours, born about 1735, was prominent in the activities of Trinity Church of which he was senior warden at the time. He was married to a daughter of Dr. Joshua Babcock of Westerly. He died July 26, 1815.

²¹Samuel Bours was baptized at Trinity Church April 6, 1729 and was married in the same church to Elizabeth Elliott on September 24, 1752. In 1772 he was a director of a lottery for paving Pelham Street.

²²Edward Thurston was born January 12, 1728/9, the son of Edward and Elizabeth Thurston. He married (1) Elizabeth Crocum April 8, 1753 and (2) Mary Fountain June 17, 1764. At the July, 1776, session of the General Assembly the sheriff of Newport was ordered to arrest him and a committee was appointed to examine his papers and bring any they thought suspicious to the Assembly for inspection.

²³Thomas Robinson (1731-1817) was the son of Governor William and Abigail (Gardiner) Robinson. He married Sarah Richardson, a granddaughter of Joseph²² Wanton March 21, 1754.

²⁴Jabez Carpenter was a son of Joseph and Mary Carpenter of Swansea, Massachusetts. He married Elizabeth Mitchell December 10, 1726. He moved from Swansea to Newport, where all his children were born. He died Feb. 24, 1788.

²⁵Philip Wanton was born May 31, 1719, and died January 17, 1778. He was the son of Philip and Hannah (Rodman) Wanton. He had a son Philip, born April 1, 1762, and died February 27, 1832.

²⁶John Hadwen, son of John and Elizabeth Hadwen of Low Wray, Hawkshead, Lancashire, England, died at Newport September 14, 1804, aged 81 years. He married Elizabeth Barney and had a son John and a daughter Dorcas, who married Obadiah Brown, son of Moses Brown, of Providence. Moses was the brother of John Brown, whose mansion, built in 1786, is the headquarters of The Rhode Island Historical Society.

²⁷The cabinetmaking Goddards of Newport were members of the Society of Friends.

²⁸Job Bennet, Jr., of Newport served as a militia officer between 1754 and 1762, the last two years as colonel of the Newport County Regiment. He was a justice of the Superior Court of Judicature, 1763-67 and 1773-75.

²⁹John Mawdsley at one time had a large capital, which he employed in navigation. In 1776 he was one of a committee of safety, but taking sides with the Crown, his property was confiscated. He died February 21, 1795. He was a rebel until the Royal Army took possession of Rhode Island, when he pretended loyalty; and then, changing again at the peace, he satisfied the Whigs of his faithfulness to them, recovered his estate, and took the oath of allegiance to the new government. Whatever the truth, he was one of the memorable "Fifty-five Loyalists, who, in 1783 petitioned for lands in Nova Scotia."

³⁰The reference is probably to Col. Joseph Wanton, eldest son of Governor Joseph and Mary (Winthrop) Wanton, born February 8, 1730, died in New York August 8, 1780, married (1) Abigail, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Goulding) Honeyman, (2) Sarah, daughter of Jahleel and Mary (Neargrass) Brenton. He was a graduate of Harvard. He was superintendent of police in Newport under the British.

³¹In June, 1778, the General Assembly recommended to General Sullivan that Mr. John Reid, deputy from Newport in 1773 and 1774, be apprehended, confined, and returned to the enemy upon Rhode Island, having "forfeited the protection of this and the United States."

³²George Sears married Abigail Hall January 2, 1765. He was on the Committee of Inspection for vessels, and a deputy from Newport in 1776. He was a lieutenant colonel in the First Regiment of Militia of Newport County.

³³See Note 35.

³⁴See Note 35.

³⁵The Island refers to the Island of Rhode Island, formerly Aquidneck, upon which are located the towns of Portsmouth, Middletown, and Newport, from north to south.

³⁶The reference is to William Ellery's brother Christopher. He married Mary, daughter of Samuel, a prominent Newport merchant, and Amey (Ward) Vernon.

³⁷George Rome came from England to Rhode Island in 1761 as an agent of Hayley and Hopkins, a large commercial house in London. He divided his time between Newport and Narragansett. Siding with the Crown, he found shelter on board a man-of-war in the harbor.

³⁸Thomas Corey was a deputy from Tiverton in 1773 and 1780 and served on a committee for Newport County to send out vessels for salt in 1776.

³⁹Samuel Durfee, the son of William and Ann (----) Durfee of Tiverton, was born March 1, 1702, and died November 8, 1788. He married his first cousin Mercy, daughter of Benjamin and Prudence (Earle) Durfee. He owned much land in Tiverton and elsewhere, and served ten terms in the General Assembly as deputy from the town.

⁴⁰The only William Burrington in the Rhode Island census of 1774 and 1782 lived in Portsmouth. He was probably the William Burrington who married Sarah Lake of Portsmouth, November 11, 1753.

⁴¹An Oliver Cooke was a deputy from Tiverton in the General Assembly in 1771 and 1772.

JOHN SMITH, THE MILLER, OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS

by CHARLES WILLIAM FARNHAM

[continued from January, 1965, back cover]

74 JESSE⁵ SMITH (*Daniel*,⁴ *Elisha*,³ *John*,² *John*¹), b. 17 May 1751; d. 7 Jan. 1806; m. (1) Lucina Whipple; (2) 8 March 1789 Sabra Arnold, b. 1770, of Aaron Arnold; d. 17 Feb. 1849.⁶⁰¹ Jesse lived in the part of Gloucester later set off as Burrillville. His will was made in Burrillville 26 Oct. 1805 and offered for probate 1 Feb. 1806.

The will left to wife Sabra a third part of the homestead farm, a third of the household furniture and the west end of the dwelling house. Two daughters, Alzada and Sarah Smith, were given the privilege of living with their mother as long as they were unmarried, were to receive \$400 each and two thirds of the household furniture. The remainder of the estate was left to four sons, Elisha, Sabin, Aron, and Martin A. Smith, to be divided equally. "Friend" Pitts Smith was named executor.

CHILD OF JESSE⁵ AND LUCINA (WHIPPLE) SMITH:⁶⁰²

I LUCINA⁶ SMITH, b. in Burrillville 19 May 1783.

CHILDREN OF JESSE⁵ AND SABRA (ARNOLD) SMITH:

II ALZADA⁶ SMITH, b. Burrillville 14 April 1791; d. 1 Sept. 1818; m. Nancy Thornton of Smithfield, b. 18 Sept. 1789; d. 30 March 1877.

III SARAH⁶ SMITH, b. 10 June 1793; m. Whipple Steere of Gloucester

IV ABIGAIL⁶ SMITH, b. 9 April 1795. May have died young since she was not named in her father's will.

127 V ELISHA⁶ SMITH, b. 8 July 1797; d. 19 July 1867. Deeds in which his wife signed off her dower rights disclose that her name was Betsey.

128 VI SABIN⁶ SMITH, b. 22 March 1799 in Burrillville; d. 10 Jan. 1860; m. (1) Lillis Sayles, b. 23 Feb. 1805 of Ahab and Lillis (Steere) Sayles, who d. 2 Dec. 1850 in New York City;

⁶⁰¹Pension request of Sabra Smith, widow of Jesse Smith, Revolutionary War soldier.

⁶⁰²Arnold, Burrillville Births, 3:21.

(2) 20 Dec. 1854 Rachel Harris, daughter of Welcome Harris of Smithfield who survived him.⁶⁰³

CHILDREN OF SABIN⁶ AND LILLIS (SAYLES) SMITH:

- 1 NELSON W.⁷ SMITH, b. 13 Aug. 1825; m. Olive Parker and moved to Larrabee, Cherokee County, Illinois, where he died.
- 2 HENRY LYMAN⁷ SMITH, b. 13 Aug. 1825; d. 16 Nov. 1859 at Pascoag, Burrillville, and is buried in Acote Cemetery, Chepachet; m. Phebe F. Eddy, b. 30 Jan. 1831 in Burrillville, daughter of Stephen and Harriet E. (Olney) Eddy. They had one son, JOB AUGUSTUS⁸ Smith.
- 3 MINERVA⁷ SMITH, b. 29 June 1832; m. Benjamin Colman and moved to St. Louis, Missouri.
- 4 HULDAH⁷ SMITH, b. 7 Dec. 1834; d. in New York City 9 May 1862; m. Theodore Cholette, steamboat engineer.
- 5 ALMIRA⁷ SMITH, b. 30 Aug. 1838; d. 21 Oct. 1856.
- 6 MARTIN⁷ SMITH, b. 8 Dec. 1840; d. 14 March 1864; m. Sarah R. Barlow.
- 7 FRANCIS⁷ SMITH, b. 1 Oct. 1844; d. unmarried in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

129 VII ARON (OR AARON)⁶ SMITH, b. in Burrillville 18 Nov. 1801; m. Julia — and had two children born in Burrillville: SIMON F.⁷ Smith, b. 27 Dec. 1826; and JESSE M.⁷ Smith, b. 15 Nov. 1834.⁶⁰⁴

130 VIII MARTIN A.⁶ SMITH, b. in Burrillville 29 April 1804; m. 10 Oct. 1824 Maritta Smith of Burrillville, daughter of Eber Smith.⁶⁰⁵

75 CAPT. MOWRY⁵ SMITH (*Daniel*,⁴ *Elisha*,³ *John*,² *John*¹), b. 30 March 1764; d. in Glocester 15 Jan. 1829;⁶⁰⁶ m. (1) Mary Arnold of Benedict of Glocester 20 Feb. 1805, called the "youngest daughter of Benedict Arnold" in the notice of her death at 27 years recorded in *The Providence Gazette* of 4 May 1810; (2) Mary Arnold, daughter of Oliver Arnold of Glocester, the marriage reported in *The Rhode Island American* issue of 16 Jan. 1815.

⁶⁰³Beers, *op. cit.*, 3:1905.

⁶⁰⁴Arnold, *op. cit.*, Burrillville Births, 3:21.

⁶⁰⁵*Ibid.*, Burrillville Marriages, 3:13.

⁶⁰⁶Data of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Brown, Providence.

Mowry Smith's homestead farm was on what is now Route 44, a short distance west of the village of Chepachet. He is called Captain Mowry Smith in Glocester deeds, and his gravestone in the family plot on his homestead place also bears that title. Probably he was captain of one of the town military groups. He also served as justice of peace in Glocester in 1818-21.

Mowry Smith died intestate, and Daniel Smith, Jr., was named administrator. An inventory recorded 14 March 1829 totaled \$1,816.09. At the same time Mary A. Smith, widow of Mowry, designated articles, which were formerly her own, to be set off to her. On 26 Oct. 1829 the homestead farm of Mowry was appraised at \$840 and one third was assigned to the widow.

CHILDREN OF CAPT. MOWRY⁵ AND MARY (ARNOLD) SMITH,
the first wife:

- I SARAH ARNOLD⁶ SMITH, b. in Glocester 4 Nov. 1805.⁶⁰⁷
- II WATT MOWRY⁶ SMITH, b. 22 April 1807 in Glocester;⁶⁰⁸ d. 6 July 1849; m. 21 Oct. 1832 George Olney, son of Ziba Olney of Glocester,⁶⁰⁹ b. 31 Dec. 1811; d. 10 Aug. 1871.

CHILDREN OF GEORGE AND WATT (SMITH) OLNEY:⁶¹⁰

- 1 JOSEPH SMITH⁷ Olney, b. 14 Aug. 1835; m. 13 Feb. 1853 Amey Sprague Randall of Augustus and lived in Glocester and had ten children.
- 2 JAMES BENEDICT⁷ Olney, b. 14 Jan. 1845; m. (1) in 1866 Minerva Keach; (2) Ellen C. Baker. Lived in Glocester and had four children.

III BENEDICT ARNOLD⁶ SMITH, b. 24 Dec. 1809.⁶¹¹ Died young.

76 DUTY⁵ SMITH (*Daniel*,⁴ *Elisha*,³ *John*,² *John*¹), b. 9 May 1766 near Stillwater, Smithfield; d. 4 Feb. 1855 in Burrillville and was buried in the family lot in Mapleville; m. (1) 18 June 1789 Huldah Mowry, b. 16 Oct. 1762, daughter of Stephen and Amey (Cook) Mowry;⁶¹² (2) Mrs. Sally Aldrich.

Duty moved from Smithfield to the part of Glocester which later

⁶⁰⁷Arnold, Glocester Births, 3:62.

⁶⁰⁸*Ibid.*

⁶⁰⁹*Ibid.*, Glocester Marriages, 3:28.

⁶¹⁰Data of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Brown, Providence, and *Olney Memorial*, p. 176-177.

⁶¹¹Arnold, Glocester Births, 3:62.

⁶¹²*Ibid.*, Smithfield Marriages, 3:68.

became Burrillville. He represented the town in the General Assembly, served as justice of peace and held other town offices. The family cemetery in which Duty and members of his family are buried is located off the Victory Highway in Mapleville only a short distance from the center of the village.

CHILDREN OF DUTY⁵ AND HULDAH (MOWRY) SMITH:

- I LEUSINA⁶ SMITH, b. Smithfield 28 Oct. 1789; d. 28 April 1790.
- II DENNIS⁶ SMITH, b. Smithfield 25 March 1792; d. 15 March 1795.
- 131 III ALVA⁶ SMITH, b. Gloucester 15 June 1794; d. in Burrillville 22 Nov. 1842;⁶¹³ m. Mahala Olney, who was administratrix when the inventory on Alva's estate was filed in Burrillville 4 Jan. 1843.
- 132 IV SENAGA⁶ SMITH, b. in Gloucester 1 March 1796; d. 25 Dec. 1861 in Burrillville;⁶¹⁴ m. Nancy Hunt, daughter of Arnold and Abigail Hunt, who d. 25 May 1851 at 54 years and is buried with her husband in the family lot in Mapleville.

CHILDREN OF SENAGA⁶ AND NANCY (HUNT) SMITH:

- 1 DENNIS H.⁷ SMITH, b. 18 Feb. 1818;⁶¹⁵ d. 1890; m. in Burrillville 2 Jan. 1842 Marana H. Salisbury,⁶¹⁶ b. 1821, daughter of Moses Salisbury, who d. in 1908. They had ALBERT F. Smith, MERRICK M. Smith, and IRVING C. Smith.
- 2 NANCY M.⁷ SMITH, d. 14 June 1847 at 16.
- 3 SENAGA N.⁷ SMITH, b. 18 Oct. 1838; d. 13 April 1895; served in Civil War.
- 133 V MOWRY⁶ SMITH, b. in Gloucester 12 Aug. 1798; d. in Smithfield 19 Oct. 1878 and was buried in the family lot in Burrillville;⁶¹⁷ m. 16 Oct. 1824 Prusha P. Harkness of Mendon, Massachusetts,⁶¹⁸ daughter of Samuel and Hannah (Southwick) Harkness, who d. 20 Jan. 1884 in her 82nd year.

⁶¹³Gravestone in Duty Smith burial lot.

⁶¹⁴*Ibid.*

⁶¹⁵Arnold, Burrillville Births, 3:21.

⁶¹⁶*Ibid.*, 3:14.

⁶¹⁷Gravestone in Duty Smith burial lot.

⁶¹⁸Arnold, Burrillville Marriages, 3:13.

CHILDREN OF MOWRY⁶ AND PRUSHA (HARKNESS) SMITH:⁶¹⁹

- 1 SAMUEL H.⁷ SMITH, d. 8 July 1876 in 52nd year; m. Rachel Smith of Burrillville.
- 2 SIMEON⁷ SMITH, b. 4 May 1828; d. in Smithfield 31 March 1905; m. Mary P. Enches of Smithfield, who d. in 1931.
- 3 HANNAH⁷ SMITH, b. 1830; d. in Smithfield 20 July 1906, unmarried.
- 4 DANIEL⁷ SMITH, b. 29 April 1832 in Smithfield; d. 1914; m. in Providence 25 Dec. 1883 Sabra J. Baker of Amasa and Ellen (Brennan) Baker, b. 1863; d. 1926.
- 5 MOWRY⁷ SMITH, d. unmarried 12 April 1860 in his 27th year.
- 6 JOHN D.⁷ SMITH, d. unmarried 7 Dec. 1878 in his 39th year.
- 7 JAMES F.⁷ SMITH, d. 15 Oct. 1873 in his 31st year.
- VI HULDAH MOWRY⁶ SMITH, b. 21 March 1801; m. 18 May 1823 in Smithfield Ahas Mowry, Jr.⁶²⁰ Four children born in Smithfield were SALLY SMITH MOWRY, b. 27 Aug. 1823; DUTEE SMITH MOWRY, b. 3 March 1825; AMANDA WILLARD MOWRY, b. 2 Feb. 1828; and ALVA S. MOWRY, b. 29 June 1830.⁶²¹

77 JEREMIAH⁵ SMITH (*Daniel*,⁴ *Elisha*,³ *John*,² *John*¹), b. in Smithfield 29 May 1767; d. in Gloucester in 1845; m. (1) in Smithfield 15 Dec. 1790 Joanna Wilkinson, daughter of Stephen and Sarah (Sprague) Wilkinson.⁶²² Joanna was b. in 1766 and d. 22 Feb. 1828 in Gloucester. He m. (2) Betsey Converse, a widow. There were no children by this marriage, and after Jeremiah's death she moved to Douglas, Massachusetts, to live with her own children.⁶²³

Soon after his first marriage Jeremiah moved from Smithfield to Gloucester. On 12 Aug. 1791 his father Daniel Smith deeded to him a lot called the Pray place (also known as the Dexter lot) which became the Jeremiah Smith homestead. He built his own home before 1793.

⁶¹⁹Beers, *op. cit.*, 3:1693.

⁶²⁰Arnold, Smithfield Marriages, 3:53.

⁶²¹*Ibid.*, Births, 3:108.

⁶²²*Ibid.*, Marriages, 3:68.

⁶²³Most of data on Jeremiah Smith, children and grandchildren from family papers of Mrs. John J. W. Neuner of Mount Vernon, New York, a descendant of Jeremiah who occupies the Jeremiah Smith homestead as a summer resident.

The house, with additions, still stands, located between Routes 44 and 101 on the Mt. Hygeia extension (known as Sheldon Road) and remains in the hands of a descendant.

In some Gloucester deeds Jeremiah is identified as a carpenter.

Jeremiah, his wife Joanna, and some of their children and grandchildren are buried on the family homestead not far from the rear of the house. Jeremiah died intestate, and a division of his property was made in 1854.

CHILDREN OF JEREMIAH⁵ AND JOANNA (WILKINSON) SMITH:

- 134 I STEPHEN⁶ SMITH, b. 1791; buried with his family in his father's cemetery. He married Nancy Law. He received a farm from his father close by the homestead property.

CHILDREN OF STEPHEN⁶ AND NANCY (LAW) SMITH:

- 1 JOSEPHINE⁷ SMITH, m. Horace Keach and had one son, LEON, who d. young.
 - 2 ALMEDA⁷ SMITH, m. (1) a Weedon and (2) William Simmons, buried in the family cemetery.
 - 3 JERRY⁷ SMITH, lived in Gloucester but later moved to California.
 - 4 MARIETTE⁷ SMITH, unmarried; buried in the family cemetery.
 - 5 SARAH⁷ SMITH, m. Robert Thornton; lived in California and had a daughter JOSEPHINE.
 - 6 GEORGE L.⁷ SMITH, moved to California.
 - 7 MARIA⁷ SMITH, m. Allan Turner and is buried in the Turner Cemetery.
- 135 II RUSSELL⁶ SMITH, b. 28 May 1795; d. in Danielson, Connecticut, where he spent the last half of his life; m. "the widow Brown." Had ELCY who m. a Davis, LYDIA who m. a Taft, and WILLIAM Smith, all of whom had issue.
- III POLLY⁶ SMITH, b. 1 March 1793; d. 24 Jan. 1850 in Stafford Springs, Connecticut; m. 15 Nov. 1817 Stephen Page of Gloucester;⁶²⁴ b. 15 July 1796, son of Joseph and Freelove (Keach) Page; d. 19 Feb. 1864. Stephen and Polly moved from Gloucester to Stafford Springs in 1818.

CHILDREN OF STEPHEN AND POLLY⁶ (SMITH) PAGE:⁶²⁵

⁶²⁴*The Providence Phenix*, issue of 5 Jan. 1817.

⁶²⁵*Commemorative Biographical Record of Tolland and Windham Counties, Connecticut* (Chicago, 1903), p. 187.

- 1 LAURA ANN⁷ Page, (1818-1882) unmarried.
 - 2 SENECA NELSON⁷ Page, b. 15 Nov. 1819; d. 30 March 1892 in Stafford; m. Rebecca Holden of Holden, Massachusetts.
 - 3 SMITH WILKINSON⁷ Page, b. 9 July 1821 in East Stafford, Connecticut; lived to be a very old man.
 - 4 FRANCES CALDWELL⁷ Page (1823-1827).
 - 5 JEREMIAH⁷ Page, b. 4 Feb. 1825; d. 6 Dec. 1879 in western Iowa; m. (1) Adaline Clark of Munson, Massachusetts; (2) Loretta Alden.
 - 6 SAMANTHA⁷ Page (1817-1828).
 - 7 JOSEPH P.⁷ Page (1828-1829).
 - 8 MARY JANE⁷ Page, b. 11 Oct. 1830; d. 7 Sept. 1869; m. Julius C. Anderson of Stafford.
 - 9 MARTHA⁷ Page, b. 26 Feb. 1832; m. (1) Harrison Howe of Stafford; (2) Maro Hammond of Vernon, Connecticut.
 - 10 EUNICE C.⁷ Page, b. 24 Sept. 1833; m. Esek Sweet of Stafford and d. in Rhode Island.
 - 11 PHILIP ALLEN⁷ Page, b. 20 Aug. 1840; d. 15 April 1872; m. Fannie Galvin of Palmer, Massachusetts.
- IV SOPHIE⁶ SMITH, d. 21 Oct. 1890 in her 90th year and is buried in the Jeremiah Smith cemetery. She m. Rufus Eastman and they lived for several years in Ashford, Connecticut, then returned to Gloucester. They had several daughters, but only one child, RUSSELL, lived to maturity. When he was in his teens he supposedly ran away to sea and never came back. Soon afterward Sophie divorced her husband, and Rufus returned to Ashford. Sophie lived the remainder of her life with her brother Amasa and his family.
- V PHERE⁶ SMITH, d. Oct. 1803, aged two years; her gravestone is the oldest in the Jeremiah Smith cemetery in Gloucester.
- VI ALICE⁶ SMITH, m. George Law, Jr., brother of Stephen Smith's wife. They lived at Woonsocket Falls (or Cumberland) where George was president of the savings bank.

[to be continued]

THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

One Hundred and Forty-Third Annual Meeting

THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING of The Rhode Island Historical Society was held Sunday, January 31, 1965, at 2:30 p.m. at the new library, 121 Hope Street, Providence, Rhode Island, having been postponed twice from January 17, 1965, because of inclement weather.

President George C. Davis called the meeting to order, and 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, read his report for the year ending June 30, 1964. A copy of Mr. Vose's report is printed in this issue on the inside back cover.

Mr. Clifford P. Monahan then rendered his 11th annual report as director. He stated that the new library building was opened for general use on November 16, 1964, and plans for the renovation of John Brown House were well under way. The Society, he said, could assist more in the education of our youth by co-operating with the Department of Education. It is already working with Brown University and Rhode Island College in providing college class instruction at John Brown House. The Society should continue to increase its library collections, and also add to its furniture collection now that John Brown House is available as a museum. Mr. Monahan recommended the formation of a Rhode Island League of Historical Societies to act as a clearinghouse for speakers, programs, and other activities. He expressed the hope that women would play a larger role in the affairs of the Society, and that John Brown House would become a community center, available for social activities of all types. He expressed the Society's gratitude to the late Dudley A. Williams, M.D., for his generous bequest in 1956, to Mr. Benjamin Cook, Jr., for his work on the Development Fund, to Mr. Joseph K. Ott for his work in the forthcoming furniture exhibit, and to President Davis for his efforts in obtaining the new library building.

In his annual librarian's report, Clarkson A. Collins, 3rd, reported that space for our library collections has finally been achieved by the purchase of the Tockwotton Library. Major acquisitions during the year 1964 were a collection of records of a seafaring branch of the Congdon family from East Greenwich, gifts from Judge Albert S. Larrabee of New Jersey, Almon T. White, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. William Field of Ohio, the estate of Alice L. Winsor, and many others.

Norman T. Bolles, chairman of the Membership Committee, reported that as of December 31, 1964 our membership stood at 2,281, or a net increase of 199 members during the year. As the members stood in respect, Mr. Bolles then read the necrology. Members of the Society who died during the previous year were:

Necrology List, 1964

Mrs. Everard Appleton	Louis I. Kramer, M.D.
Mr. Frederick A. Ballou, Jr.	Mrs. Simon S. Lapham
J. Murray Beardsley, M.D.	Mr. Jesse W. S. Lillibridge
Mrs. George B. Benander	Mr. Alden L. Littlefield
Hon. Newton C. Brainard	Mrs. Albert E. Lownes
Mr. John Francis Brown	Mr. Eugene P. Lynch
Miss Bertha J. Burlingame	Mrs. Albert E. Marshall
Mr. Henry S. Chafee	Miss Alice E. Mauraan
Miss Alice M. Comstock	Mrs. Charles H. Merriman
Dr. Harry T. Daniels, Jr.	Mr. Stephen C. Miller
Mrs. Lee Garnett Day	Mr. Horace M. Peck
Halsey DeWolf, M.D.	Mr. Harvey S. Reynolds
Professor C. Owen Ethier	Mr. Edward T. Richards
Mr. William B. Farnsworth	Mr. Francis Hoppin Richmond
Mr. Edward M. Fay	Mr. Francis H. Stone, Jr.
Hon. G. Frederick Frost	Hon. John W. Sweeney
Professor James L. Giddings	Mrs. Allston E. Thorpe
Mrs. Ronald C. Green	Mr. Henry A. Voss
Dr. Francis M. Hackett	Mr. Benjamin F. Wilbour
Miss Grace M. Holton	Mr. Lucien Wulsin

Mr. Norris G. Abbott, Jr., chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, reported that plans for a parking lot along Charles Field Street to accommodate approximately twenty-five cars are now under consideration.

The Museum Committee, Robert S. Allingham, chairman, reported on the several exhibitions which were held at John Brown House during the year, and mentioned bequests to the Society's collection by Mrs. Edward S. Moulton, Mrs. Allston E. Thorpe, Mrs. Elisha C. Mowry, Miss Lydia B. Chace, and a gift from Mrs. C. Oliver Isclin, and many others. The furniture exhibition in May 1965 should be a major event.

At the suggestion of President Davis, a motion was made and duly seconded that Mr. John Nicholas Brown be named chairman of the committee to refurbish John Brown House. The motion was unanimously carried.

The report of the nominating committee for officers for the ensuing year was then submitted by Mr. Raymond H. Trott, chairman.

There being no other nominations and upon motion duly made and seconded, the nominations were closed and the secretary was instructed to cast one ballot for the slate as read.

Reuben C. Bates, M.D.	president
Stuart C. Sherman, Benjamin L. Cook, Jr.	vice presidents
Frank L. Hinckley, Jr.	secretary
Mrs. Norman T. Bolles	assistant secretary
Nathaniel M. Vose, Jr.	treasurer
John H. Wells	assistant treasurer

MEMBERSHIP

Walter R. Martin, *chairman*
Mrs. Helen H. Chase
Joseph Galkin
Miss Bertha C. Greenough
Mrs. Peter J. Westervelt

GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS

Norris G. Abbott, Jr., *chairman*
James D. Graham
Lloyd W. Kent
Mrs. William G. Roelker
Kenneth B. Sherman

LIBRARY

Bradford F. Swan, *chairman*
Thomas R. Adams
H. Glenn Brown
Mrs. Axel A. Christensen
Richard S. Nutt

MUSEUM

Robert S. Allingham, *chairman*
Hugh J. Gourley, 3d
Mrs. Clifford P. Monahan
Joseph K. Ott
Mrs. Kenneth Shaw Safe

LECTURE

O. Griswold Boynton, *chairman*
Gren O. Pietrel
Mrs. Herbert N. Couch
Donald Shepard
Mrs. Bruce M. Bigelow

FINANCE

Bayard Ewing, *chairman*
Foster B. Davis, Jr.
H. Clinton Owen, Jr.
John Simmen
William W. White

PUBLICATION

Henry B. Cross, *chairman*
Francis H. Chafee, M.D.
Robert H. George
Houghton P. Metcalf, Jr.
Paul C. Nicholson, Jr.

AUDIT

John H. Drury, *chairman*
F. Morris Cochran
Roger W. Shattuck

The officers being duly elected, Dr. Reuben C. Bates, who was elected president of the Society, said a few words of appreciation and the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
FRANK L. HINCKLEY, JR., *Secretary*

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

for 12 months ending June 30, 1964

<i>Income</i>	
Dues	\$11,378.00
Investments (net)	33,899.01
John Brown House Fund	309.19
State of Rhode Island	8,160.00
City of Providence	2,000.00
Contributions—General	355.00
Corporate	100.00
Patriotic Societies	250.00
Library Sales	765.00
Outside Services	1,062.89
Miscellaneous	524.34
	<hr/>
	\$58,803.43
<i>Expenses</i>	
Salaries	\$26,190.00
Social Security Taxes	844.15
Director's Discretionary Fund	575.57
Supplies	1,452.29
Telephone	611.12
Membership	685.96
Library	4,540.60
Museum	966.69
Lectures	743.07
Publications	4,841.84
Heat, Light, Housekeeping	2,249.70
Grounds	4,013.62
Building	4,000.52
Insurance	637.77
Group Insurance and Blue Cross	923.90
Special Insurance	2,000.00
Miscellaneous	1,475.47
	<hr/>
	\$56,752.27
Net operating gain	\$ 2,051.16

BALANCE SHEET

<i>Assets</i>		<i>Liabilities, Reserves, and Special Funds</i>	
Cash	\$ 14,340.42	John Brown House Fund	\$ 8,140.00
Special Funds	32,921.96	Jonathan Chase Fund	24,781.96
Investments	633,951.21	Life Membership Reserve	1,950.00
Fixed Assets	182,880.50	Roelker Memorial Reserve	357.78
Other Assets	2,150.76	Building Reserve	12,000.00
Bldg. & Dev. Fund	55,172.40	Publication Fund Reserve	2,234.63
		Library Book Fund Reserve	359.35
		Quaker Material Purch. Res.	137.69
		Hist. Material Purch. Reserve	-1.99
		Anticipated Disburs. Reserve	1,600.00
		Bldg. & Dev. Fund Balance	46,047.88
			<hr/>
			\$ 97,607.30
		General Endowments	\$725,395.91
		Special Use Bequests	56,057.24
			<hr/>
			781,453.15
		Operating Surplus (Deficit)	-\$11,989.85
		Investment Account Surplus	54,346.65
			<hr/>
			42,356.80
			<hr/>
			\$921,417.25

NEW MEMBERS

January 1, 1965 to March 31, 1965

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mr. F. Emmons Alexander | Mrs. Mark S. Hough |
| Mr. Ray S. Allen | Woonsocket, R. I. |
| Warwick, R. I. | Mr. George P. Howard |
| Miss Marion D. Almy | Marion, Mass. |
| Dr. Claude W. Barlow | Mr. Standish Howland |
| Worcester, Mass. | North Providence, R. I. |
| Mrs. Henry L. P. Beckwith | Miss Toni H. Leviero |
| Mr. Robert S. Burgess | Mr. Anthony Masi |
| Warren, R. I. | North Kingstown, R. I. |
| Miss Lois Campbell | Mr. Arthur C. Milot |
| East Providence, R. I. | Mr. David A. Milot |
| Mrs. Lionel J. Cardin | East Providence, R. I. |
| West Warwick, R. I. | Mr. Donald W. Nelson |
| Mrs. Arthur D. Champlin | Mr. Ridler W. Page |
| Wakefield, R. I. | Mrs. Ridler W. Page |
| Mrs. John J. Collins | Mrs. Raymond A. Perry |
| Rumford, R. I. | Edgewood, R. I. |
| Mrs. Stephen T. Crary | Mr. Walter M. Rankin |
| Mr. Charles J. Davis, Jr. | Mrs. Walter M. Rankin |
| Edgewood, R. I. | Mr. Robert A. Riesman |
| Mrs. Charles J. Davis, Jr. | Mrs. Robert A. Riesman |
| Edgewood, R. I. | Mrs. Harry A. Roark |
| Mr. Vincent H. Dexter | Warwick, R. I. |
| North Providence, R. I. | Mrs. Eric V. Rohde |
| Mrs. William H. Drain | Alton, Ill. |
| North Providence, R. I. | Mrs. Charles H. Russell |
| Mr. Robert J. Feldman | Mr. Leo St. Onge, Jr. |
| West Barrington, R. I. | West Warwick, R. I. |
| Mrs. Robert J. Feldman | Mr. Ted A. Sande |
| West Barrington, R. I. | Cranston, R. I. |
| Mr. Donald W. Franklin | Mrs. Stuart C. Sherman |
| Los Angeles, Calif. | Mrs. Glenn B. Skillin |
| Mr. Daniel H. Giffen | Mr. David L. Stackhouse |
| Concord, N. H. | Warwick, R. I. |
| Mr. Irvan F. Goodman | Miss G. Flora Stanley |
| Warwick, R. I. | Barrington, R. I. |
| Mrs. Irvan F. Goodman | Mr. Dennis E. Stark |
| Warwick, R. I. | Mr. Howard W. Steerc |
| Mrs. Carl W. Haffenreffer | Mr. Lloyd H. Turoff |
| Mrs. Alverda G. Hart | Barrington, R. I. |
| West Warwick, R. I. | Miss Helen M. Walker |
| Mr. Nathanael Greene | Esmond, R. I. |
| Herreshoff III | Mr. Sydney L. Wright |
| Mt. Holly, N. J. | Jamestown, R. I. |
| Miss Jen E. Hough | |
| Woonsocket, R. I. | |