

Warwick Historical Society

Newsletter Fall 2010

Greetings from the Board:

After a long hot summer it is a pleasure to welcome the cooler days of fall. As a true Rhode Islander I look forward to the change of seasons and enjoy every one. Even Winter, now that I am retired and can stay home and look at the snow from my window rather than having to face driving in it unless I choose to. You can always get someone to shovel for you. So far this season we have been spared, except for one close call, any hurricane damage.

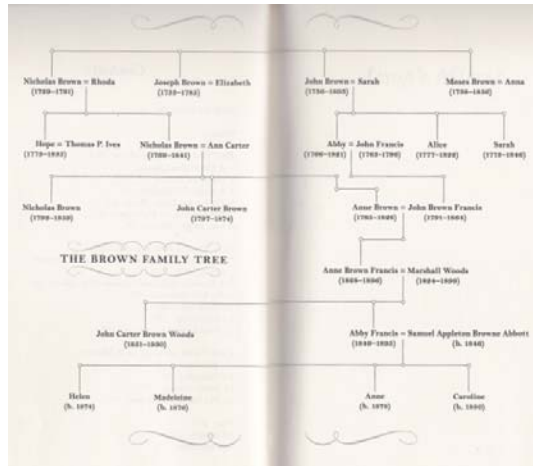
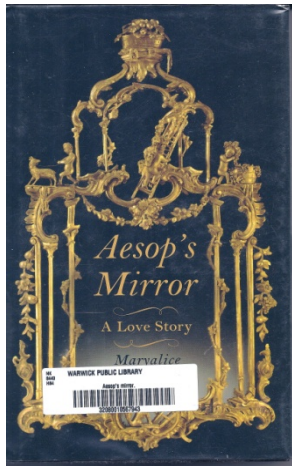
The mystery object in a previous newsletter has not been identified. The mystery remains. We now have another mystery object brought in by Donna Ramos (Fifi). Do you know what it is or what it is used for? It is approximately 7" long and ¼" thick.



Speaking of mysteries.....

Henry Brown was telling us recently about a book written about a mystery mirror with ties to Rhode Island and the Brown family. It is a non-fiction book titled *Aesop's Mirror* by Maryalice Huggins of

Middletown. It is the account of Ms Huggins purchase of a mirror in the Rococo style at an auction in Clayville, RI and her attempts to establish provenance for the mirror. Her research led her to many prominent Rhode Island families and locales and ultimately to Henry Brown and his prestigious knowledge of the Brown family. You will especially enjoy her account of the meetings with Henry at his Spring Green home. As part of her research she recounts the story of a well born young lady of means coming of age during the post Civil War era in Rhode Island. Ms Huggins brings to life musty documents, diaries and journals in a way not usually found in non-fiction works. It is a delightful read and can be found at the Warwick Public Library (NK8440H84)



We are having a meeting at the Warwick Public Library on Thursday Nov. 4 at 7 pm. The guest speaker will be Kelly Sullivan. She will be telling the story of the Murder at Rocky Point in 1898. We will have Rocky Point ephemera on display and will be selling reprints of postcards and photos.

Don D'Amato's lecture series from last Spring has been edited and is available for sale at the Arnold House. There are two DVD's. One is the raw footage and the other is the edited version with just Sessions 1 and 6. They sell for \$30. The raw footage is naturally very lengthy. We also have copies of his novel on disc. It sells for \$15.

David Tremblay and Henry are now working on editing Don and Henry's book on the train/trolley service in Warwick at the turn of the last century. Our plan is to publish it ourselves. We will let you know when it is available. David is also gathering information for a book about Warwick's Mills.

Our members continue to be involved in activities to benefit the community.

Bob Chorney, who works with the Historical Cemetery Commission, recently received a certificate from the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War recognizing his work to maintain historical cemeteries. Contact us if you would like to participate in cemetery cleanups.

We will be part of the Rocky Point Rally being held on Friday October 15th at 6:30 pm at Rhodes to promote the passing of the Open Space Referendum on election day, Nov. 2. There will again be memorabilia on display. If you missed the exhibit at the Museum in June you have another opportunity to see some of the items that were on display at that time. Don't forget to vote.

Sue Venezia is running for City Council in Ward 1.

We are also currently in the process of filming Frank Knight and his memories of WWII. He saved his scrapbooks and journals from the war and has many personal stories to tell about his experiences. For those of us who were around at the time it is bringing back a lot of memories.

We continue with our scanning and cataloging (a seemingly never-ending job) of our photos and documents. We have a volunteer who is going to take our antiquated hand written inventories of house contents and put them in a spreadsheet format. When done, we will be able to do an accurate inventory of the Arnold House contents that has not been done in decades. The old inventory cards contain some of the names of former donors of the contents. Right now, when asked, we are unable to inform people who come to the house where most of our older items come from.

Please consider joining us to chat at our regular time on Wednesday or volunteering to help out with our "honey do" list. We can accommodate your schedule as needed.



Have a safe and happy Halloween and---
A blessed Thanksgiving to you and yours.

-History is a vast early warning system.- Norman Cousins