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## NEWSLETTER FALL 2011

*Greetings to all from the board:*

It has been a very interesting summer in terms of weather. At the beginning we suffered through three digit heat, then we had an earthquake, and who could forget *IRENE*. Fortunately, through it all no one we know suffered any serious damage.

### Our fountain:

Some of our older members may recall a fountain that was in the Milli Longo garden at her home in Pontiac. After her death, her sister Fifi wanted the fountain to go to the Arnold House. However, at the time the house was undergoing restoration and it was feared the fountain would be damaged so it was moved to Maureen Callahan's house for safekeeping. It remained there until her death because it needed to be restored and no one knew who could do a proper job. It was later brought to the Arnold House and placed in the basement where it languished in the dark. In the meantime, Fifi had made a donation to the Society for the purpose of restoring the fountain so it could be placed in our garden. After Fifi's death Sue Venezia made it her mission to find someone who could restore it. At long last, after all these years the fountain is restored and has found a permanent home.



Photos by:  
Lucille MotaCosta  
Summer 2011

Due to the extreme weight of the fountain Sue was helped by Bob Chorney and Andrew Novak transporting the fountain back and forth from the restorer and securing it in place. The next time you come to the house see it once more gracing a garden. Our thanks to Fifi for her donation and our members who made it possible.

#### Research:

Some of the research that has been done over the summer includes; the Pawtuxet River by a Brown student, the Crime Castle history, the barge wreck at Green Island, old Warwick Taverns for a book, the William Arnold House, the Brown Cemetery at Spring Green, the Thomas Warner house in Apponaug, the Robert/Isaac Sweet family, Samuel Gorton/Robert Potter/Henry Knowles family, William Tillman from the Civil War, the Fair House in Pawtuxet, and old Pontiac photos. We also received a request to use one of our maps for a project at Providence College. As you can see we respond to a variety of requests for information.

#### Grants:

Earlier in the year we received a grant through the Rhode Island Foundation Ott Fund to purchase acid free boxes to protect our old documents. The boxes have been delivered and we are now able to transfer those documents in need of a safe environment.

This year's Legislative Grant was used to replace our fence, and we have again received a grant for the coming year to purchase a computer we desperately need.



*Photos by  
Felicia Gardella  
Summer 2011*

#### Library Presentations:

We have identified five programs we plan for the next year at the Warwick Library based on collections donated to the Warwick Historical Society:

- Hazel Kennedy's Pawtuxet Historic Buildings-her original 1988 slideshow and commentary
- Madaleine Toy's Pawtuxet of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century-her collection of original photos
- John Caruthers Slideshow of Rocky Point and Oakland Beach Amusement Parks-his original collection
- An Anniversary Celebration of the Civil War-includes original documents provided by Henry Brown, Donna "Fifi" Ramos and Milli Longo
- The Warwick Railroad and Villages Along the Way publication

Dates and times are to be determined. Check our website and the Warwick Library as they become available. We will have items for sale at the time pertinent to the topics presented.

Excerpts from Warwick Town Records Book I The book published in 1926 contains the *Book With Clasp* (commonly referred to as *Book of Clasp*) and merges with the *Record Books* of the same time period. The first entry is dated 8-8-1647 and the last is dated 6-2-1724. The bulk of the recordings are the ear marks (brands) for livestock of town members and descriptions of land boundaries. The Record Book contains the deeds of land sales between land owners of the time.

The following excerpts contain the language, capitalization and spelling quoted directly from the original text; they are not misprints.

- 10-4-1642 The sale of land to John Greene was entered into the official town record on 1-27-1658 and signed by Miantonomu chiefe sachim of the Nanhigansets.
- 3-14-1643 Town Charter granted by Robert the Earl of Warwick entered into the official record 3-14-1648.
- 8-8-1647 Apointed 5 persons to layout those meddowes at Patuxet.  
Ordered that John Townsends pay for the keeping of his Cattell.
- 1-23-1648 Record of the marks (signatures) of certain town members.
- 2-5-1648 Made it illegal to make liquor available to or sold to Indians.
- 6-11-1649 Ordered the fence at Quinimicoke be mended before Saturday night next.  
A penalty of twelve pence a day for defective fences.
- 7-1-1650 No goat or goats be kept on any of the Townes Commons.  
1652 John Lippitt fined for selling a gun weighing five pounds.
- 2-7-1652 A fine of ten shillings for keeping a goat in the limits of the Towne running upon the Comon.
- 4-4-1653 Ordered every man to provide himself with armes, two pounds of powder and bullets.
- 5-9-1653 Order £12 bee taken to pay the Indians for fencings at Nawsaucet.
- 9-19-1654 Samuell Gorton requires time for the deliverie of the Towne Charter.
- 3-8-1656 Ordered the rates for the building of prisons.
- 3-15-1656 Ordered payment of forty shillings to Roger Williams, a pair of Indian Breechs for his Indian at seven shillings and also a horse for his Journey to Boston and backe again.
- 2-5-1656 "Indians are fraudulent persons and their Testimony cannot be taken."  
1657 Ordered that no man shall have real possession of any land laid out to them until they pay the Treasurer.
- 1658 Bounty paid to kill the great grey wolfe.
- 5-27-1659 Recording of land deed between Samuel Gorton et al and Chathenequeneck for the neck (Warwick Neck).
- 2-1665 Ordered ye mill of John Smith forthwith repaired which is now out of repair.
- 3-17-1665 Ordered the recording of the potawomett deed in ye towne booke.
- 1667 Voted the town Graunt liberty to John Sweet to sell ye mill to Samuel Stafford and Lucke bromley.

Excerpts from Book II of the town records will be included in the next two newsletters.

*History is the only laboratory we have in which to test the consequences of thought*—Etienne Gilson