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NEWSLETTER, SUMMER 2011

We hope you are enjoying your summer. It started out with a big bang at the Fireworks display at Oakland Beach and the huge bonfire at Buttonwoods on the Fourth then moved on to the Gaspee Celebration in Pawtuxet. We will have a table set up at National Night Out at Oakland Beach on August 2nd.

Our scholarship winner, Jenna Moen, continues to distinguish herself. She was named Athlete of the Year in Cross Country, and was named to the all city teams in Indoor Track (1500m) and Outdoor Track (800m & 1500m). Congratulations Jenna.

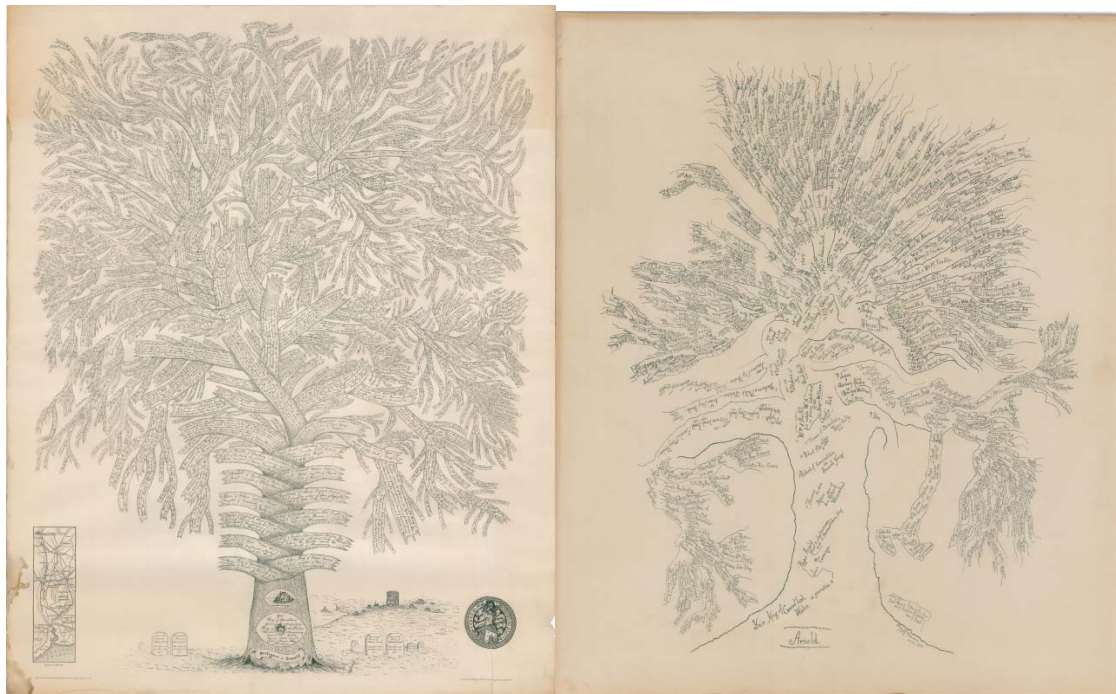
The revised Constitution and By-Laws have been accepted as well as the Slate of Officers for the coming year.

Although our activities slow down during the summer, we continue to be open on Wednesdays at the usual time. At our next board meeting we will have a workshop to establish our goals for the coming year regarding presentations, fund raising and promoting membership. If you have any suggestions or requests please let us know by contacting us through our e-mails located on our website or drop in on any Wednesday and tell us your ideas. Get a friend or relative to join! If your label is highlighted in **yellow** we have not received your dues for this year.

Some recent research projects conducted here at Arnold House are: the Pawtuxet River by a Brown student, the "Crime Castle" on Warwick Neck by a faculty member at Roger Williams U for publication, the barge wreck at Green Island, Taverns in Rhode Island for a book, and the history of the William Arnold House in Lakewood. As you can see we have a variety of requests that we have been able to fulfill.

As you may not know since the closing of the Shawomet Baptist Church recently, the Narragansett Bay Baptist Church has taken over the property. Some of their members have been doing some research here at the house into the history of the building. One of the recent “finds” we have uncovered is the original deed of William Spencer granting the land for the church in 1877.

Thanks to a generous donation by a recent visitor who is an Arnold descendent who lives in Texas we have been able to have our two Arnold Family Trees professionally scanned. We can now have them reproduced and you can purchase either one or both. One contains the earliest Arnold families and the other starts with the 7th generation forward. You can view them at any time as they are hanging here at the Arnold house. They are quite large and would be reprinted by request only.



Earliest Arnold Families

7th-14th Generations

Bob Chorney has compiled a complete detailed list of all the Rocky Point original postcards from several of our collections. While we don't sell any of our originals, we do have reprints available for sale. We also have postcard reprints from the various Warwick villages that you can purchase in addition to various books and booklets pertaining to Warwick history.

We haven't forgotten about the Railroad Book. Publishing is a complex, frustrating process, and David is still negotiating the details for publication. It won't be long now, we hope. We will have a sample for you to see at National Nite Out.

Henry Brown brought in the following photo with an explanation of the buildings pictured:



PAWTUXET VILLAGE 1885-90

The Pawtuxet River at the falls flowing beneath the new bridge erected by the towns of Warwick and Cranston 1883-1884 by engineers J. A. Laiham & builders Carvey Brothers & H. C. Macomber.

CRANSTON: Charred remains with the mill turbine shaft projecting upwards from the former Stafford & Pierce cotton mill a two story building destroyed by fire January 15, 1875. Adjacent to the mill was the Union horse car station [not shown]. The wooden frame Joseph E. Hayward building on Broad Street (Post Road) with horse drawn buggy crossing the bridge into Warwick.

WARWICK: Two gambrel roof 18th century houses on Peck Lane at Fish Hill. The first building reputedly held overnight the British crew following the destruction of the H M S GASPEE; the second an 18th century cottage owned by Capt. Peter Rhodes with a towering America elm tree above the roofline.

The first house on Main Street (Post Road) after the bridge was the home of Charles A. Gorton, village constable, owner of a barroom on the first floor and renting skiffs daily for fisherman.

The three storied building on Main St (Post Road) was the White Brothers store dealers in "Fine groceries, Meat and provisions, paint, oils etc." In the 1930's the building was the Parkway Tavern known for family dining and "Maurice", a patron, at the piano, organist at Lowes Theatre and in the 1960's the unsavory Gaspee Lounge. The building underwent extensive renovation becoming Michael O'Rourke's Bar & Grill in 2003.

Opposite the tavern on Main Street a projecting corner of the two story Henry L. Johnson blacksmith shop early site of a gristmill built by Zachary Rhodes & Wm. Arnold families for nearly 150 years. A cotton factory was constructed in 1806 by Christopher and William Rhodes at this site & destroyed by fire May 2, 1859.

Photograph owned by Mr. & Mrs Richard Harnedy of Pawtuxet.

Henry A. L. Brown

Spring Green farm

7/7/2011

The further back you look, the further forward you see ---Winston Churchill