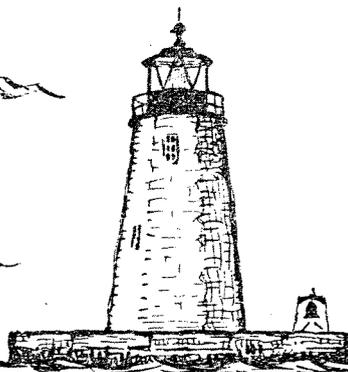


The GREEN

LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

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APRIL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

The April General Membership Meeting of the Point Association will be held on April 23rd at 8 o'clock at Mumford School. King Covell will show his pictures of the Rose Island clambakes with appropriate comments from the audience, and he will also show some slides of sunsets -- very brilliant this summer -- and some views of the bay. After all the discussions at the last two meetings, this should be a pleasant change, especially since we have had to postpone the clambake pictures twice. The committee looking for a future meeting place will make a report. There is an open meeting on April 15th in the council chamber to discuss the hurricane barrier -- at its quarterly meeting the Point Association should consider its stand on this vital question.

January Membership Meeting.

The January general membership meeting of the Point Association was held January 23rd at Mumford School, with about one hundred members present -- very encouraging, as it was our first meeting after leaving St. John's Guild hall.

Mrs. Daniel Smith first showed her pictures of old Newport houses, mostly on the Point, some torn down since, some falling to pieces, and some saved. Her comments were most enlightening and entertaining, and enjoyed by all.

The business meeting followed, with the reports of the Secretary and the Treasurer (showing a balance on hand of \$3,879.47) read and approved.

Admiral Eccles reported a meeting of the Point Association Bridge Committee with the Bridge Planning Committee, where he read the Point plans, showed charts, and emphasized that the bridge would come in at Fleet Landing. This did not seem practicable to the authorities. However, before

the final plans are drawn up, our committee can meet with the bridge authority to work out the best things for the Point.

Admiral Eccles read the resolution on Historic Zoning sent to the City Council by the Executive Board (see next page). He moved that the meeting adopt this resolution, the motion was seconded from the floor, and it was so voted. Mr. William Corcoran spoke on the Historic Zoning bill, which is copied from the state and also the Providence bills, and cannot be too different from them. The City Council has been asked to hold off action until some of the problems have been ironed out at informal discussions by proponents and opponents. A common goal for the whole city should be found.

Mrs. Bates reported that there are around 260 paid local members, and the rest will be contacted soon.

Mr. Harrington said the petition of Theodosius Mangaritis to move the Lobster Claw to the north side of Bridge Street and there build a one story cinder block

restaurant, was held before the Board of Review on January 21st with Mr. William Corcoran representing the Point Association. He took a strictly legal standpoint -- opposing the transfer as a violation of the zoning law, which states the north side of Bridge Street is zoned for residential, and his witness, Kenneth Stein, made this very clear. Mr. Mangaritis requested a variance because of hardship. The Board of Review made no decision.

To find a future meeting place, Mr. Harrington suggested that a committee be appointed to investigate all the possibilities, such as buying the former Burt Little shop on Poplar Street, going back to the Guild Hall by assuming the tax on the building, around \$240, or anything else they can discover. There was great discussion of buying the Little shop, mostly unfavorable. Mrs. George Weaver moved that the President appoint a committee of five to investigate all possibilities, the motion was seconded from the floor, and passed unanimously. It was suggested that the President attend the meetings unofficially.

After the business meeting, some of the Concentric Teens LH Club served coffee and cookies they had made, with the help of Mrs. Duffy.

HISTORIC ZONING.

This is the resolution on Historic Zoning sent to the Council, and approved at the January general membership meeting.

In May of 1962, when Historic Zoning for Newport was first discussed, the Point Association held a special meeting, and voted to support the idea of Historic Zoning. At an executive board meeting on January 9, 1964, the board voted to endorse the following resolution and send it to the City Council.

Whereas in May of 1962 at a general meeting the Point Association specifically supported the concept of Historic Zoning, and whereas the proposed ordinance now seems to require some modification to best accomplish its purpose, the Executive Board again endorses the concept of Historic Zoning. Although the Association is not qualified to make specific recommendations as to how the legal provisions precisely should be adjusted, it is confident that the City Council can make appropriate modifications so that the important purpose can be accomplished without placing any unjust burden on any citizen.

With this in mind, the Point Association urges the active study and improvement of the proposed ordinance and its subsequent passage, in order that the city may have the full benefit of its basically wise provisions.

LOBSTER CLAW

The Board of Review decided to allow the variance in the zoning law asked by Theodosius Mangarites on the ground of hardship, so that he could build a one story cinder block restaurant at the northwest corner of Third and Bridge Streets, zoned for residential. The Point Association held a special meeting, and voted unanimously to empower the Executive Board to take all necessary steps and spend all necessary money to fight this decision. Mr. William Corcoran has filed an appeal to the Supreme Court.

OLDPORT DAYS

This summer we are having an Oldport Day instead of an Afternoon on the Point, with Mrs. John Bickford as chairman. The tentative date is Saturday, August 22nd, and we hope to go back in many ways to the early Oldport Days with a roped off area, a costume parade, a town crier, a flea market, wandering minstrels, maybe a clam chowder in one of the driftways (if we find enough people feeling energetic), various exhibitions -- all sorts of things, and something to please all ages. Any potential helpers with brains or brawn, please call Mrs. Bickford -- 847-3151.

HANDCRAFTS CLASS

The handcrafts class had its first meeting in February at Mrs. Eccles' with nine present. Most were crewelling away, some practicing stitches, some designing patterns, and some working on masterpieces already begun. It was a pleasant evening, and we were all inspired by Mrs. Eccles' beautiful quilts, appliqued with original designs showing birds and flowers, and her family at favorite occupations. Not so many came to the next meeting at Mrs. Fitzpatrick's because of Lent and viruses. The next meeting will be at Mrs. Fitzpatrick's on Friday, April 17th, at 7:30. Bring anything you are working on.

REMINISCENCES OF WASHINGTON STREET

By Caroline A. Green

November 6, 1910

(Miss Green who then lived in the old Townsend House on the corner of Bridge and Second Streets wrote down her memories of Washington and Bridge Streets, and left them to her niece, Miss Ada Crandall, who in turn left them to Mrs. Harold Arnold. From time to time the Green Light will publish more of these reminiscences. The excerpt below is about Washington Street south of Bridge Street.)

About 1837 we moved from the Morrison house on the northeast corner of Poplar and Washington, to the Hayden house when John Crandall moved from the lower ???, the next house but one to Briggs Wharf, on the west side of Washington Street. John Bacheller lived upstairs, and afterward, Joseph Crandall. Henry Crandall, his son, was born there. The garden ran to the water, and there was a sea-wall with high fence on top. The house on the south was called the Dennis house, but was afterward known as Briggs house. The wharf was full of big storage houses. The Crandall shipyard was on the other corner, and below that was Theophilus Topham's bakery, and people went there to buy whale oil for their lamps.

Where the boiler shops are now were houses, one of them being Easton Holt's house (father of William Holt). Below that was a house belonging to John Hull. The house on the corner of Washington Street and Long Wharf, now used as a storage place for the Old Colony company, was a dwelling house. Then the big three-story house next above on the east side belonged to Captain Bliss, afterward known as the Phoebe Clarke house.

Above that was "Lady Southwick's", mother of Christopher Southwick, who owned Southwick's Grove. Then a house where ---- Murphy (brother to John) lived. Then Henry Tefft's house, now altered to storage house; then a little old house owned by Dr. (?) Bobby Franklin, who drove a long truck.

Then Durfee's (Captain Raymond), then Robert Carter's (Caper) in the corner of Marsh Street, with the garden running way down Marsh Street (Aunt Carter). On the northeast corner of Marsh Street was the school-house. It was the first free school in Newport, kept at that time by Joseph Finch and his wife, parents of my step-father, Henry, and they had the chairs made into the wall. The whole upstairs was the school, and the Finchs lived downstairs.

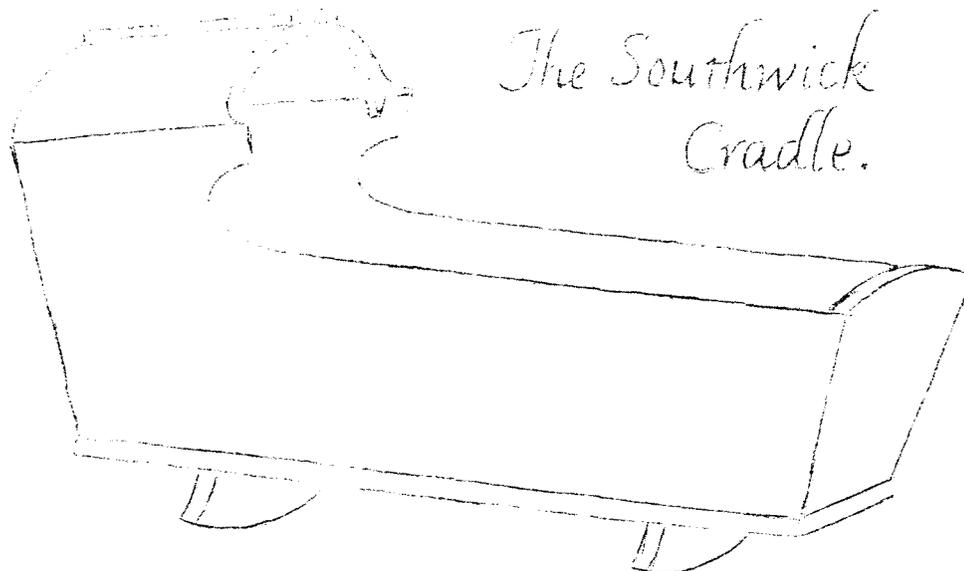
Then came a double house, lived in by Daddy (Silas) Southwick, who made and sold molasses candy, and by Louis Mitchell (Michel ?) with his wife Debby. Then John Murphy's house, where his mother, his sister Betsy, and himself lived. Then a little low gambrel-roofed house on the corner of Bridge Street where Gladding's market (later St. Clair's) is. Isaac Lawton, the town drummer, lived there -- later moved to Marsh Street.

SULLIVAN POUND CAKE.

Joe Sullivan regaled the Board at their January meeting with this Pound Cake -- the first recipe ever to appear in the Green Light.

1 Package Duncan Hines yellow cake mix
 1 Package vanilla or lemon instant pudding
 4 eggs
 2/3 cup oil
 2/3 cup water

Put all ingredients in a bowl and beat for 10 minutes at high speed. Bake in angel food cake pan for 50 minutes at 350 degrees.



This is the story of the Southwick cradle that reappeared after seventy-eight years in hiding.

It was April 1880 and though all the heat of summer seemed to be concentrated under the slanting roof of the house at the southeast corner of Washington and Walnut Streets, the carpenters lingered over the task as though reluctant to complete it.

For weeks, workmen had been busily engaged at the old Southwick house transforming its simple old Colonial lines into a Victorian marvel. Fancy trim along the roof-line, an addition on the east end of the house, a large piazza along the south side, an extra window here and a dormer there. Wonder what old Pitts thinks of all these changes! Eighty-five years old he is and he raised his family here in this house.

James McKenzie Southwick, who was born in 1830, was the last male Southwick to be rocked in the cradle. He was one of 75 Newport men who purchased the whaling ship "Audley Clarke" and sailed around Cape Horn to California to seek his fortune in the gold rush of 1849. He was moderately successful, and when he returned to Newport in 1854, he established a ship chandlery on Thames Street, where he had done business ever since. A daughter Cecelia was born in 1832 and died at the age of 16 years. Benjamin was born in 1828, had not married and was now in California. Mary and Samuel, though both married, had no children. A daughter Sarah was married to Edward G. Angell of Providence, Rhode Island, on February 14, 1861. Doubtless they hoped for little Angells to rock in the Southwick cradle, but 19 childless years had passed, and now the workmen were to seal the cradle from sight.

The carpenters had taken great pride in their work, but now were engaged in a task they did not relish. The cradle, including the hood which jutted forward from the base, for all the world like the prow of a ship, had an overall length of 44 inches. The body of the cradle was mahogany. The top brace of the hood which rose to an overall height of 24 inches, and the sturdy rockers were made of oak. The overall width of the cradle was 18 inches. It was so solidly built that it looked almost seaworthy, and well it might be, for most of the Southwicks were shipbuilders. Along the edge of the hood were what looked to be teeth marks. In this enlightened year 1880, cradles were made of wicker, intricately woven, light and airy, padded and then lined with dainty muslins. The Southwicks were a hardier line -- no frills or furbelows for them.

There was Joseph, who took care of his uncle, Solomon Southwick, in this very house. Joseph was Solomon's nephew, son of Solomon's brother Joseph, and he was a ship-builder like his father before him. Solomon Southwick was in the shipping business before he became a printer -- carried on his business from the Washington Street waterfront near the end of Bridge Street. Every man or woman with an ounce of Southwick blood in his veins could take pride in Solomon Southwick and his fight against British oppression. He made the British hopping mad with his fearless editorial broadsides under the caption "Join or Die." When the British captured Newport, Solomon barely escaped with his life, and still he continued to fight for the American cause. When the Revolution was over and he should have enjoyed some of the rewards of freedom, he was imprisoned for debt, and suffered from ill health. Joseph and his wife Susannah (Pitts) took him to their home, and cared for Solomon until his death in 1797.

When Joseph died in 1829, the house passed to his son Pitts. Joseph's son Joseph (there were a lot of Josephs) purchased a Colonial house beside the Cove, and here he continued shipbuilding until 1862, when the railroad took over this area, filled in the cove, and changed the lovely face of the Point forever.

Joseph went then to live with his son Christopher, in the Round House at Southwick's Grove in Middletown. His house on the cove, which was called the Lady Southwick (See Green Light, February 1959) was moved to Third Street, where it stands facing down Battery Street toward the harbor.

Two of the carpenters in the attic on that August day in 1880 were related to Southwicks. They were David P. Albro and H. C. Albro, who lived at the northeast corner of Third and Cherry Streets, and so they had a special interest in the Southwick cradle. They decided that the occasion demanded a bit of ceremony. On a wooden shingle H. C. Albro wrote "H. C. Albro August 2, 1880" and on the reverse side another carpenter made his contribution -- "Michael Conley August 2, 1880. All the Southwick family was rocked in this cradle." On the following day David took a shingle and penciled "David P. Albro, Jr., August 3, 1880" and Michael Conley, who lived on Green Lane near Feke Street, added this cryptic remark "Was Dead Beat Michael Conley Sed Sow" (To whom did he refer? Did he describe a physical condition or a characteristic?) They placed the shingles in the cradle and completed the vertical wall behind which the cradle was sealed; the application of plaster over the lathes completed the job. The Southwick cradle was now hidden from sight.

Years passed, the cradle gathered dust in the dead air space behind the wall. In 1887 Pitts Southwick died at the age of 92. He was buried beside his first wife Mary Eldred in Old Common Burial Ground, and their daughter Cecelia or Delia as it says on the stone. Pitts' second wife, Sarah Sweet, died in 1892, and was also buried in the Southwick plot just a few feet east up the cemetery path from Farewell near the foot of Walnut Street bridge. The Old Common Burial Ground is the last resting place of many Southwicks including the patriot printer Solomon Southwick.

In 1911 James McKenzie Southwick, the last male Southwick rocked in the cradle, died. The house passed from the Southwick family to Edith Kendall, and was sold in 1916 to Sherman J. Lewis, and finally to his son Arthur Lewis, who is the present owner. In August 1958 the Lewises were making a few necessary renovations, and while re-shingling the roof on August 3rd, the carpenter, Francis L. Sullivan of 15 Poplar Street saw the cradle through the hole in the roof. He widened the space to take it out; there inside the cradle were the two shingles placed there just 78 years ago to the day. Thanks to the foresight of those carpenters, a number of questions were answered, but we will never know the exact date that it was built, nor will we know which Southwick was the builder. Surely he never dreamt that his handiwork would survive into the twentieth century and be treasured to this very day.

Louise C. Sherman

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Let's all work the year around to keep the Point clean and beautiful. Try to teach children to respect the trees, and to pick up paper, not throw it down.