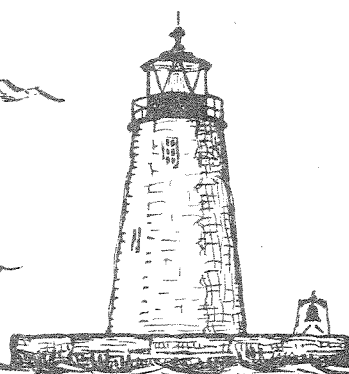


The GREEN

LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

VOL. VIII

JANUARY 1964

No. 1

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The January General Membership Meeting of the Point Association will be held January 23rd at 8 o'clock at MUMFORD SCHOOL on Farewell Street. This is a most important meeting, as the proposed purchase of the former Burt Little shop on Poplar Street will be discussed, and also Historic Zoning, which vitally affects the Point area. The Concentric Teens 4H girls will serve refreshments. If anyone would like a ride to Mumford, please call 846-0129.

Mrs. Daniel Smith will show her slides of old houses on the Point and talk about them.

Annual Meeting -- October 24, 1963.

The Annual General Membership Meeting of the Point Association of Newport was held on October 24, 1963 at St. John's Guild Hall, with over one hundred members present.

The report of the secretary was read and approved.

The treasurer's report, showing a balance on hand of \$3,746.12, was read and approved.

This year again the president gave a summary of the year's activities. The series of square dances in the fall resulted in a loss of \$86.85, as the adults grew fewer each time, and not many Point children came. The expenses for the Green Light were \$149.35 for paper, mimeographing, and postage, for an average of 350 copies four times a year. Once more the Association voted to give \$100 to the Citizen's Scholarship Fund, which is used to help a Point child. The Concentric Teens 4H troop put on a fashion show of

clothes they had made, at the April meeting, and they helped serve food at the meetings, and helped at the Collectors Treasures exhibition. We gave them \$24 for camperships. The flower boxes at Battery Park were filled with red geraniums, which were admired all summer. In the spring, \$21 was spent to feed the trees, and they are growing large and handsome. Our biggest expenditure this year was hiring a man part time to clean up the streets and sidewalks during the summer, and it is still doubtful if one man can make much improvement over the whole area. We finally hired a boy also, to clean Battery Park and surroundings for an hour or two every day, and thanks to Admiral Eccles who inspected his work, the improvement was great. Shall we try this again next summer, or has anyone any other ideas?

The report of the nominating committee was read.

For a two year term:

1st Vice President - Mrs. John H. Bickford

Corresponding Secretary - Mrs. William MacLeod

Treasurer - Mr. Edward Dunn

Nominating Committee for 1964 -

Mrs. Henry Eccles, Miss Anna Groff, and Miss Eleanor Peckham.

The 1963 Nominating Committee was:

Mrs. John Benson, Miss Carrie Ericson, Mrs. Henry Eccles, Mr. William Fullerton, and Mrs. Francis Carr, Jr., Chairman.

There were no nominations from the floor, and the secretary was instructed to cast one vote to elect the slate.

A very lively and interesting discussion of the eastern terminal of the Bay Bridge then began with several giving the disadvantages of the proposed site just south of the Naval Hospital on Washington Street, some mentioning Brown's Lane in Middletown and its advantages, and finally all feeling that our bridge committee should have a meeting, and call a special general membership meeting if necessary. It was so voted.

Father Turnbull then said that the Guild Hall had been taxed this year, and since the tax is because the hall is used for non-church activities, the Point Association may not use the Guild Hall after 1963. Mr. William P. Harrington moved a committee be appointed to consult with Father Turnbull, and it was so voted.

The business meeting was adjourned.

All greatly enjoyed the talk given by Mr. Robert Woodruff, Director of the Norman Bird Sanctuary, and found his pictures most soothing after the excitement of the bridge discussion.

Mrs. Duffy and the LH girls served cider and doughnuts.

SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Point Association was called on Thursday, November 14th, by William C. Harrington, President, to discuss the best location for the Newport end of the proposed Narragansett Bay Bridge. The Point Association voted to adopt the following resolution and send it to all the authorities concerned with planning the Bridge, Newport Redevelopment, and the highway systems concerned:

RESOLVED that the Point Association of Newport reaffirms the statements in the May 1962 Point Association Development

Plan that the Newport-Jamestown Bridge be so constructed as to land at the Long Wharf Fleet Landing area with a causeway from Goat Island to Long Wharf. A main highway on the site of the present railroad tracks should be constructed so as to move through traffic to the north without entering the center of Newport.

The whole area, Long Wharf Fleet Landing and the land now occupied by the railroad sidings and the junk yard and the substandard housing south of Marsh Street be completely redeveloped so as to provide for the following:

A. The aforesaid main highway along the present railroad tracks, together with other suitable highway access to the downtown area and waterfront street.

B. A marina and/or boat repair facility.

C. Playground areas and public park.

D. An athletic field.

In recommending this location, the Point Association submits that:

A. This area does not destroy a valuable tax paying residential area.

B. This area will improve the whole city of Newport by providing needed park and recreation area, by eliminating currently substandard housing in an area which is now subject to flooding in a hurricane.

C. This area would provide the tourist using the bridge with a beautiful initial view of Newport and its redeveloped areas, thus making it more likely that he would stay in the City.

D. A direct route from the west to Goat Island by way of the bridge and causeway would enhance the accessibility and economic advantage of the Key Newport project.

The major concern emphasized throughout the discussion was that the Point Association should coordinate their point of view with the best interests of all concerned -- Newport, Aquidneck Island, Rhode Island, and the U. S. Navy. The importance of a well coordinated plan with a minimum of expense was particularly stressed by Rear Admiral Henry W. Eccles, Chairman of the Committee for the bridge. He pointed out that the bridge must be considered as an integral part of Newport Redevelopment and of the entire highway system. This plan would combine these so as to bring about full benefit to all citizens of Newport and Rhode Island.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

At the Executive Board Meeting held on January 9th, the plan for Historic Zoning was discussed, and Admiral Eccles, Chairman of the Committee read the Historic Zoning plan discussed at a special meeting in May, 1962, and approved unanimously. The present plan presented by the City Council follows closely the enabling act passed by the state legislature. The board after discussion, voted to send the following resolution to the City Council.

If we are to benefit from the creation of a zone to preserve our truly valuable heritage, we must be prepared to make certain sacrifices for the ultimate enrichment of our city.

Therefore this resolution is adopted:

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.

THE LOBSTER CLAW

The owner of the Lobster Claw at 64 Bridge Street, classed as a restaurant, petitioned to have his license transferred to the north side of Bridge Street, where he will tear down an old house and build a one story cinder block building. This area is residential, so the Council refused his request. He has appealed to the Board of Review, and the case comes up on January 21st. The Point Association has engaged William Corcoran to represent us. The Board signed a petition at their January meeting opposing such transfer, and a petition signed by residents in the area will be circulated. We also hope to get a large number of residents to come to the hearing

on January 21st, where several will speak in opposition.

MEETING PLACES FOR THE POINT ASSOCIATION

As you all know, we can no longer meet in St. John's Guild Hall where our meetings have always been held since our founding in 1955. There has always been a most friendly feeling in our relations with the church officials, and they have been most generous to us, so that we almost feel as if we were leaving our home.

We have permission to meet in school halls, but Callender basement is not big enough, Potter is full of school supplies, and that leaves Mumford on Farewell Street the nearest one. We are having our January meeting there, and hope everyone will make a great effort to come.

At the January Executive Board meeting, the members discussed buying the former Burt Little shop, opposite the Guild Hall on Poplar Street, now owned by Mr. Whalon. This would be a very basic change, and it requires deep consideration.

Several experts went with Mr. Harrington to examine the shop, and agree it is basically in good condition. Moreover, they are willing to do the necessary work and changes if the Association will get the materials, a rough estimate of \$1,000. A gas heater is already installed. This could be a community center for the whole Point for Scout and 4H troops and social clubs, etc., and the crafts group could have a place on the second floor to store their equipment.

The property would be taxed, as we rate as a social club. To buy it, we would need a mortgage. The executive board figured the expenses for the year would be around \$1,000 for taxes, maintenance, gas, electricity and water, and would need whole-hearted support from all members.

The Executive Board voted to bring this plan up at the General Meeting on January 21st at Mumford School. They suggest that a committee be appointed from the floor to investigate all aspects. When they are ready to report, a special general meeting should be called.

If you, yourself, do not come to the January meeting, you have only yourself to blame if you are not satisfied.

THE TRIALS OF THE SOUTHWICKS

To the God of all sure mercies let my blessing rise today,
From the scoffer and the cruel He hath plucked the spoil away;
Yea, He who cooled the furnace around the faithful three,
And tamed the Chaldean lions hath set His handmaid free!

First verse "Cassandra Southwick" by
John Greenleaf Whittier

In 1627 Lawrence Southwick, a glass manufacturer, came to America from Lancashire, England, and found the new country eager to welcome new families and industries. He returned to England and in 1630 brought his wife Cassandra, his ten year old son John, and infant daughter Mary to Massachusetts aboard the Mayflower. They settled in Salem, and joined the First Church. Southwick, who was one of the first glass manufacturers in America, was granted two acres of land to engage in his craft. This property was called Glass House Field, and was situated near the present Aborn Street in Salem, just south of Gallows Hill. As Southwick prospered in his trade, his estate grew to eight acres, and the family of Lawrence and Cassandra also grew in size. A son Josiah was born in 1632, a daughter Provided in 1635, and a son Daniel in 1637. The first Provided died in 1640, and a new daughter born in 1641 was also named Provided.

Then came years of Quaker persecution, and the Southwicks were caught in the snare of that injustice. In 1657 two Quakers sought and received shelter at the Southwick home. For this act of Christian charity, Lawrence and Cassandra were publicly lashed and imprisoned. Lawrence was released to be dealt with by the church, but Cassandra was kept in prison for seven weeks and fined forty shillings for possessing Quaker papers. In March of 1658 Cassandra was imprisoned in Boston, Massachusetts, together with Lawrence and their son Josiah, for being Quakers. They were kept there for twenty weeks on charge of violating a law enacted while they were in prison.

Distressed by the cruel treatment of their parents by Governor Endicott and the church, Daniel, aged 21 years, and Provided, then a lass of 17 years, refused to attend First Church and instead attended a Quaker meeting. They were imprisoned on June 29, 1658, and fined ten pounds. Unable to pay the fine, Daniel and Provided were sentenced by the General Court to be sold into slavery in the Barbadoes or in Virginia, to satisfy the court fine. Several sea captains were approached to carry out the sentence, but even among these rough and hardened men of the sea, none would agree to transport these young people into slavery. Public indignation over the sentence caused Governor Endicott to retract the sentence, and the young people were released to fend for themselves. Lawrence, Cassandra, and Josiah were at last freed from prison, and banished from Massachusetts on pain of death.

The elder Southwicks, then over sixty years of age found refuge at the home of Nathaniel Sylvester on Shelter Island. This island at the near east end of Long Island received its name as a haven for religious outcasts. Here Lawrence made his will leaving the Glass House Field property of eight acres to his son, Josiah. Lawrence and Cassandra had lived to see their children free, but the months of imprisonment and privation had taken severe toll on their health. Lawrence died in 1660 just three days before the death of his wife. They were buried on Shelter Island. To end this chapter on a cheerful note, Provided Southwick married Samuel Gaskill on December 30, 1662, and had four children. Her brother, Daniel, married Esther Boyce in 1663 and was the father of seven children. They continued to live in Massachusetts.

Josiah journeyed to the safety of Rhode Island, was married in 1658, and began the Newport branch of the Southwick family. In 1660 he journeyed from Newport to Salem to inspect his inheritance. He was again seized, stripped to the waist, tied to a cart's tail, and taken through Boston, Roxbury, and Dedham. In each town he received ten lashes on the back. Josiah returned again to the safety of Newport and became the father of ten children. When Josiah died in 1693, the Glass House Field property passed to his sixth offspring, a son named Solomon, who was born in 1672.

Solomon was married in 1713, and in turn became the father of eight children.

His sixth child, a son born in 1731, was also named Solomon. As a young boy, Solomon Southwick helped his father selling fish in the market place. Young Solomon's diligence at this task, his comeliness of person, and the evidence of an alert mind attracted the notice of Henry Collins, who was reported to be the wealthiest man in Newport. Collins had become the patron of many poor boys of promise, and had given to each an education suited to his capacity. Robert Feké, the artist, and Peter Harrison, the architect, were but two of the men who rose to prominence through the generous assistance of Henry Collins, and their own innate genius. Solomon was placed in the Academy of Philadelphia and was an apt scholar. On finishing his education he was set up in business by Collins, and in partnership with a Mr. Clarke, they engaged in the spermacetti business on lot #10 in the first division of Easton's Point, just south of the Hunter House.

About this time Samuel Hall offered his printing establishment for sale, and in March 1768 Solomon Southwick purchased the Mercury. He was married on June 20, 1769, to Ann Gardner, daughter of Colonel John Gardner, and they became the parents of six children, Elizabeth Ann 1770, John 1771, a set of twins named Henry Collins and Mary 1772, Solomon 1773, and Wilmarth 1775. Solomon Southwick continued publication of the Mercury, and became sincerely attached to the interests of the country. The severity of the British government against the Americans, and the suppression of business aroused Southwick to protest. He wrote and printed an address to the people of Rhode Island, which was headed by the motto "Join or Die," and urged the Americans to unite against British oppression. Southwick is also believed to be the instigator of the first overt act against the British crown -- the burning of a boat from His Majesty's Sloop Liberty on July 19, 1776, in the area we now know as Equality Park on Broadway. His articles in the Mercury became more vehement, and if it be true that the pen is mightier than the sword, the power of Southwick's press was indeed a force to be reckoned with.

Southwick was marked as a prime target for punishment when the British took possession of Newport in December, 1776. Detachments of British soldiers were sent to all parts of town to arrest the patriots. Solomon Southwick, his wife with a child in her arms, and other patriots got into open boats, and were just putting off from shore in rough seas, occasioned by high winds, when a party of pursuing soldiers came in sight. Though still within gun shot, Southwick and his wife and son Solomon escaped, but the younger son Wilmarth and a nurse were captured. (No further details.) Solomon fled to Rehoboth to continue his efforts for liberty, and was engaged to print rules for the American Army. In 1778 he was appointed Deputy Commissioner General of Issues of Rhode Island.

After the British evacuated Newport on October 25, 1779, Southwick returned to Newport to aid in re-establishing the Newport Mercury together with Henry Barber. Barber became publisher of the Mercury in 1780 when financial troubles and ill health beset Southwick. In March of 1781, Solomon Southwick was appointed one of a committee of four to welcome General George Washington on his visit to Newport. It was an honor that would help to sustain him in the dark days ahead. During the Revolution two houses belonging to Southwick had been torn down by the British. The houses were mortgaged to Samuel Marryott and not fully paid for. He could have paid the balance at any time in paper money, but felt he could not in conscience do so. He was imprisoned for debt of \$170.00 which he owed Marryott, and was further distressed by a nervous disorder, and the death of his wife, Ann, on February 22, 1783.

That same year he petitioned the Assembly of Rhode Island to release him from imprisonment and permit him the healing benefit of good air and exercise. The Assembly permitted him to live at the home of his brother Joseph, at the southeast corner of Washington and Walnut Streets and gave him the liberty of the house and back yard. Here he spent his remaining years. In 1784 another appeal to the General Assembly secured his liberty. Let us hope he was cheered by the company of friends and the large and interesting Southwick family. He died in 1797. A tombstone in the old Newport Common Burial Ground bears this inscription in his honor:

"In Memory of Solomon Southwick, Esq.

A gentleman of liberal education and expansive mind.

For many years Proprietor and Editor of the Newport Mercury, and

Commissioner General for the State of Rhode Island. In Revolutionary War.

He died December 25, 1797, in the 66th year of his age.

Just, generous, good, benevolent, sincere was he whose hallowed dust reposes here.

If e'er a partial prayer he breathed to Heaven that prayer was for his country's glory given."

Louise C. Sherman

Reference: Southwick Genealogy,

Descendants of Lawrence and Cassandra Southwick.

CHRISTMAS ON THE POINT

We did not have a tree this year, but Mr. Harry Groff put two stars, one facing the bay, the other facing the land, far up on the flagpole at Battery Park. The lights were lit on Sunday afternoon at the end of the thirty day mourning period for President Kennedy, and it was a beautiful ceremony. Senator Claiborne Pell spoke briefly, there was a moment of silence, the Covell chorus sang two carols, and the lights went on. A deep red glow in the west made a striking background, and everyone present, over a hundred brave souls, was deeply impressed.

On Christmas Eve early, we tried walking around the Point carolling, enthusiasm being more necessary than voice. Only about twenty came, all but two, children, but everyone had fun singing, and drinking cocoa afterwards at Mrs. Bates'. Later in the evening Robert Covell and his singers went to cheer their friends, and sang with their usual excellence.

The evening after Christmas came the judging of the Christmas decorations, not so many or so elaborate as some years, but always beautiful. The judges were: Mrs. B. J. Semmes, Jr., Mrs. E. W. Cole, Jr., and Miss Nancy Hay. They chose the following winners:

True spirit of Christmas - Mrs. Mary E. Sullivan

Most original - Mrs. Patrick Mahoney

Most effective with least expense - Mrs. William F. Kitts

Honorable Mention - Mr. Howard Nagle, Mr. John Murphy, the Townsend House, Mr. W. Harry Groff, and Mrs. Reginald Bryer

The chairman for the whole celebration was Postmaster William P. Harrington, and in his busiest season he found time to arrange a memorable program.

THE CRAFTS GROUP

The first meeting of the people interested in crafts will be held at Mrs. Eccles' on Friday, February 7th, at 7:30. We are planning to start with crewel work, because it is easy to carry around, and we shall have to begin by meeting in members' houses. It would be a great help if you could have an idea of what you would like to make, and bring materials to start it. And of course if you could look up a few crewel stitches, it would get you started faster. It might be a good idea to start a sampler so that you can get practice in making the stitches you want to use.

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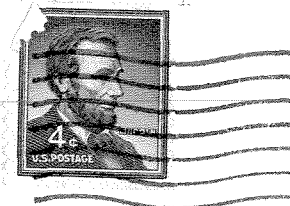
Old Brick Market 127 Thames Street

Home of historic Newport reproductions.
Furniture, china, silver, wallpapers and fabric.

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.



THE GREEN LIGHT
THE POINT ASSOCIATION
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