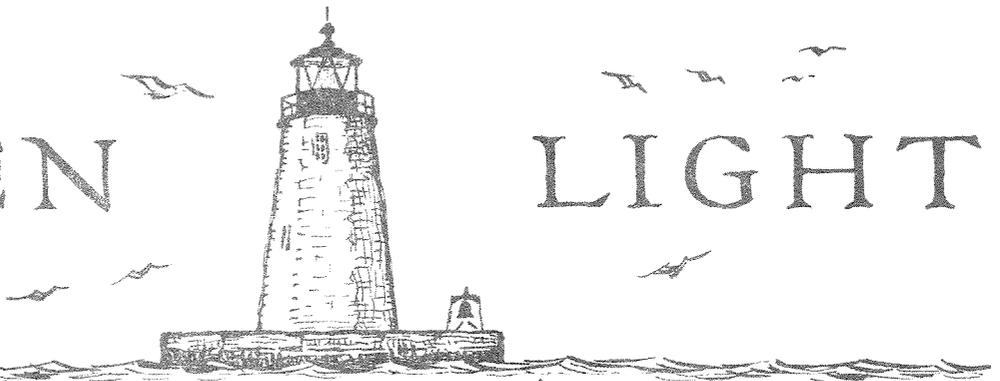


The GREEN

LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

VOL. X

JULY 1966

NO. 3

JULY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

The July meeting will be a picnic July 28th, Thursday, on Mrs. Benson's lawn on Washington Street at 6:00 o'clock. The Point Association will provide dessert, so bring your own sandwiches, and something to sit on. Our July picnics are increasingly popular, so come everyone, and have a nice restful get-together with your neighbors.

APRIL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The April meeting was held at Mumford School on April 28th, with Mr. Fullerton presiding. At the last minute, we had to meet in the kindergarden room but it proved to be a pleasant place, and much more intimate than the large hall.

The Secretary's report was read and approved, and also the Treasurer's report, showing a balance on hand of \$4,360.59.

Mr. Sullivan gave a report on the tree planting program (see next page), and Mrs. Arnold, the Chairman of the Point Tour of Period Houses, told of her plans. Miss Canole described the annual meeting of the League of R. I. Historical Societies, which the Point Association joined this year.

A tree with a plaque was suggested as a memorial to William C. Harrington, our late President.

The zoning ordinance to apply to craft shops on the Point is still not settled, as it will take very careful wording to draw it up. Admiral Eccles has spoken before the Council, and Mr. William Corcoran and the City Solicitor are working on it. It will be presented to a joint meeting of the Council and the Planning Board.

Miss de Bethune showed sketches of the Long Wharf-State House vista as

planned by the Redevelopment Agency, and compared them to sketches of the same area as she visualizes it. The motion was made and carried that the Point Association form a group for saving the Long Wharf-State House vista, a city-wide committee.

The business meeting was adjourned.

The Reverend Henry Turnbull showed slides of his latest trip, mostly to countries bordering the Mediterranean, including Greece, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Petra; the slides were most beautiful, and he described everything enjoyably. The city of Petra, which Father Turnbull had always wanted to see, was particularly interesting, with the caves in the cliffs, and the narrow approach through steep cliffs, which is subject to flash floods.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. Curtis James and her committee.

DOG NUISANCE.

In spite of the city ordinance that all dogs should be on leashes, they are running wild all over the Point. Several people have complained of roaming dogs. Anyone annoyed by any such nuisance should call the dog catcher, Mr. Joseph Sanfillipo 37 Elm Street -- 847-6316.

POINT TOUR OF PERIOD HOUSES

Dear Members:

As Chairman of the Point Tour of Period Homes on June 25th, I wish to extend my sincere thanks and deep appreciation to all our members who assisted us on that day, by their services given in one way or another. More especially, we must not forget the owners who opened their homes to the public.

I assure you, it was a "Labor of Love" on their part to stimulate further interest in those ready to undertake another house such as they have done. Let us, as a group, continue to promote the welfare of the Point wherever and whenever possible, keeping in mind the "Priceless Heritage" that abounds here with us on the Point.

The weather was cool but kind and the day a successful one -- what more could one ask for? Again, my thanks to you all.

Gratefully,

Phillipine M. Arnold (Chairman)

The Point Tour of Period Houses on June 25th was most delightful and successful, and once more Mrs. Arnold has proved she has the Midas touch where any fund raising affair is concerned. We all appreciate her whole-hearted and untiring efforts to make the day so outstanding. All day from 11 to 5 people came to see the houses, a steady procession of all kinds, and we were delighted to see so many Newporters. All were most interested and attentive, and enjoyed themselves. The day was threatening, but it did not rain, and no one suffered from the heat. The baked goods vanished fast, and we could have sold much more. Needless to say, the houses opened all looked at their best, whether they were fully restored, or still in the process. Many came out of curiosity, and left inspired by the work that had been accomplished.

\$1,655 was taken in on the sale of tickets, \$94.75 from the sale of food and donations, Here and There on the Point, membership, and a commission from Mrs. Manuel, \$40. The expenses came to \$247.96 (fliers, tickets, insurance, map, seal, etc.). When this was subtracted, a net profit of \$1,552.80 was left.

The ten houses open were:

The Bennett House, 44 Thames Street, Mrs. J. H. N. Potter

The William Claggett House, 16 Bridge Street, Dr. and Mrs. George Ackley

The Gideon Spooner House, Third and Elm Streets, Mr. Nesbitt and Miss Buchert

The Christopher Townsend House, 74 Bridge Street, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Goddard

The Abraham Rivera House, 53 Washington Street, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McLaughlin

The Dennis House, 59 Washington Street, St. John's Rectory

The George Irish House, 96 Washington Street, Professor and Mrs. Hiram Stout

The James N. Utter House, 40 Walnut Street, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Weiss

(Residence of Lieutenant and Mrs. Steven H. Edwards)

The James Davis House, 42 Second Street, Dr. Arnold Frucht

The Sheffield Huntington House, 43 Elm Street, Commander and Mrs. Walter Whitley

MORE MOVING!

Four old houses will be moved very shortly from the Old Age Housing Area. The houses at 59 Charles and 14 Coddington will go to Elm Street next to the Potter School. 12 Coddington will go north of Mrs. Boss on Cross Street; this small house was lived in for a time by Governor Gideon Wanton. The fourth house on Farewell Street will go to Third and Bridge.

* * * * *

On Open House day a man came up to a Point Association woman, and asked the way to Leo's. She was surprised, but told him, and then noticed he was carrying a card saying St. Leo's.

TREE PLANTING PROGRAM.

Our big project this year has been the tree planting program carried out by M. Joseph Sullivan, who for years did all the planting himself, as well as protecting the new trees. This year at last he got someone to do the actual planting, but he interviewed the home owners who gave permission to plant trees in their yards, and he drove to Seekonk, as many of the flowering varieties are not available in Newport. He has planted smaller flowering trees (the list follows), and in yards, they do not need protection, and have more room to grow. So far they are flourishing, and Mr. Sullivan hopes more people will be glad to accept trees next year, when they see what an improvement they make. PLEASE remember that these young trees need to be soaked with water frequently, especially in this hot weather. Where else can you get these beautiful specimens planted in your yard all for free?

Battery Park has pink geraniums in the tubs this year, and as always, some plants are taken. One of the small lindens in the park has had five branches broken off by children swinging on them. (Point parents please pay particular attention.) The city finally cut the grass along Washington Street north of the de Bethunes' but they took away all the pipes protecting the little Scotch pines from dogs and children. The bottoms of the trees are turning brown, and the tops are broken off. At last we have a permanent Christmas tree planted on Poplar Street between the Grafton House and the Rectory, where it should flourish.

These trees and planting them have so far cost \$413.63, of which \$90 is for the Christmas tree.

Here is the list:

Foley, 17 Bridge Street -- 1 dogwood, 1 Shadbush
 Ackley, 16 Bridge Street -- 1 Shadbush
 Fitzpatrick, 52 Thames Street -- 1 laburnum, 1 Shadbush
 Case, 34 Thames Street -- 1 red leaf Peach
 Kane, 31 Bridge Street -- 1 Japanese Cherry
 Frucht, 42 Second Street -- 1 fringe tree
 Gordon, 80 Washington Street -- 1 Japanese Cherry
 Carr, 55 Washington Street -- 1 Linden
 Petritz, 85-1/2 Washington Street -- 1 laburnum, 1 Japanese Cherry, 1 red leaf Peach
 Fitzpatrick, 5 Cherry Street -- 1 Japanese Cherry, 1 red leaf Peach, 1 crab apple
 Murphy, 54 Third Street -- 1 Japanese Cherry
 Baillargerion, 43 Third -- 1 crab apple
 Carman, 31 Elm Street -- 1 Silver Ball, 1 crab apple
 MacLeod, 32 Second Street -- 1 Shadbush
 Nemtsov, 36 Third Street -- 1 Laburnum
 St. John's Church, Washington Street -- 2 Copper Beech, 1 green Beech, 1 laburnum, 1 red leaf Peach, 1 crab apple, 1 Japanese Cherry, 1 spruce
 Scott, 34 Bayside Avenue -- 1 Storax (white flowers)
 Eccles, 101 Washington Street -- 1 Hawthorn
 MacLeod, 78 Washington Street, 1 Hawthorn
 Home for Aged, 78 Washington Street -- 1 crab apple
 Roach, 43-1/2 Elm Street -- 1 Magnolia
 Howe, 25-1/2 Willow Street -- 1 Dogwood
 Harkin, 62 Third Street -- 1 Japanese Cherry
 Lyons, 70 Third Street -- 1 Japanese Cherry, 1 red leaf Peach, 1 Laburnum
 Ellis, 99 Second Street -- 1 Japanese Cherry
 Gleason, 10 Van Zandt Avenue -- 1 Dogwood
 Andrews, 9 Bayside Avenue -- 1 Japanese Cherry
 Bryer, 24 Van Zandt Avenue -- 1 Magnolia
 Weaver, 59 Second Street -- 1 Chinese Dogwood

At a meeting of the Executive Board, it was voted to replace the three trees on Bridge Street, cut down when the Pitts Head Tavern was moved, and send the bill to Operation Clapboard.

JAMES MURRAY

ZEMINDAR OF BENARES AND ORISSA

One of the most dashing and interesting characters that formerly lived in that section of Newport known as "The Point" was James Lillibridge. True, he left his home when a young boy, but the City of Newport can be proud of this young man's amazing record of adventures.

It is regrettable that the British government in India did not keep official records of the services of the partisan officers who joined their forces during the Scindia Campaign of 1803-1806. If they had, it is quite possible that we would have uncovered much more of the history connected to James Lillibridge, a young Newporter who joined their forces with approximately seven thousand well equipped men and horses. No mention of his services can be found in either Garret's "European Adventures in North India", nor Compton's "European Military Adventures of Hindustan." Neither is there any mention of him in Fortesques' "History of the British Army." The Biographical Encyclopedia of Representative Men of Rhode Island states: "He was not a member of the regular British army, although given the rank of major. He served as a partisan officer of irregular troops and retained command over his cavalry unit of seven thousand horse." It seems incredible that there is no further mention of him; a striking force of seven thousand well-equipped men and horse, in those days, must have been a sizable contribution to the English cause. The Probate Court in Boston, Massachusetts, has in its possession numerous papers pertaining to Lillibridge, and from these many unknown facts concerning him have been obtained.

Several historians have stated that he was born in Exeter, Rhode Island, but one of the witnesses, Nathaniel Smith, called in the Paternity case held in Boston signed a statement regarding his birth -- "he was born in Newport in 1770 in my grandfather Joseph Stacy's house." Several other witnesses also swore that he was born in Newport; it seems safe to assume that Newport and not Exeter was his birthplace.

James Lillibridge was an illegitimate son of Mrs. Hope Mowry and Robert Lillibridge. Mrs. Mowry's husband, Joshua, a ship's rigger, was accidentally killed while working on a vessel at Taylor's Wharf in 1766. Robert Lillibridge, who had been a deputy sheriff, was well known throughout the town as the tavernmaster of the celebrated "Pitt's Head", which was situated at that time on Queen Street, a short distance from the abode of Mrs. Mowry. In order to keep her little family together, Mrs. Mowry ran a tavern and sailors' boarding house on Long Wharf. This house was later known as the Bohanna house. The boisterous and riotous life of a water-front tavern, filled with carousing sailors from all corners of the globe, and street walkers of all ages, did not breed a healthy atmosphere for a young boy of twelve. Mrs. Mowry soon apprenticed her unwanted son to Sheffield Attwood, a sea baker, who had his place of business not far away in a section of the town, known as the Point. James did not relish this type of work, and ran away to his brother John's house in Exeter, Rhode Island. It was here Mr. Attwood found him and brought him back to Newport. From a deposition made by Mr. Attwood at this time, we get the first physical description of our subject -- "The said James was an ingenious lad of an ardent temper, extremely well proportioned in body and very active, bold and daring. He was of middling stature for his age (14) of light complexion, dark blue eyes and brown hair. He was a great mimic, would sing a good song and tell a good story, but was very obstinate, self-willed and ungovernable, which made this deponent the more willing to part with him."

It was not long after his return that he made the acquaintance of a Captain John Grimes, who, knowing the circumstances surrounding the boy's birth and seeing the unhealthy conditions around him, tried to give him every possible aid. In consequence of a family quarrel, James again decided to run away; this time he stowed away on board the ship commanded by his newly found benefactor. During the voyage the first signs of audaciousness, the first of many that was to follow, was encountered. He quarreled with the first mate, and jumped ship at the Cape de Verde Islands. Here he disappeared, and for several months his whereabouts were unknown. He had joined a band of European adventurers who were heading for the interior of India, for it is here we pick up his

trail again. They had slipped through the British blockade, and Lillibridge joined the army of the Doulat Rao Scindia, an Indian potentate, who was recruiting foreigners into his army. It also seems likely, at this time, Lillibridge changed his name to Murray; no explanation has been found for this, as hereafter he is referred to in all known papers as James Murray. In the service of his new employer he climbed steadily, and eventually was placed in command of the army, an honor he held for a number of years.

Finally tiring of inhuman cruelties practiced on helpless prisoners, he threatened to resign. After violent dispute as to the rights of several British officers that had been captured, Murray resigned his command with the Indian rajah. He now planned a daring move; knowing that his former employer was busily engaged in a number of skirmishes with the British forces, he took over a small mountainous section of the Doulat's domain, and set himself up as King. His reasoning was correct, as no attempt was ever made to drive this upstart from his self-appointed kingdom, although it is reported, at the beginning of this venture, Murray's army consisted of seven or eight poorly armed natives. Here Murray's ingenuity and daring knew no bounds, and his little army soon grew to a sizeable force. When the Mahratta Wars broke out between Scindia and the British, Murray relinquished his crown and turned over to the British forces seven thousand well-equipped men and horses. He was privileged to keep command of this force, and with them travelled over India fighting many pitched battles and skirmishes. He was eventually placed under the command of the Marquis of Wellesley and Lord Lake. In the campaigns that followed, he was considered one of the best partisan officers in India, well skilled in horsemanship and unexcelled in the use of the broadsword.

After the war, Murray decided to return to America. He was not overly pleased with the treatment that the British command had given him, now that the war was over. He retired from the army with the rank of major at half pay. He confessed to several friends who saw him in Calcutta that he desired to see his almost forgotten birthplace, as he had acquired a handsome fortune, having built up a lucrative trade between India and several merchants in America. Other more sinister plans were stirring in the back of his mind, but these came to a rapid conclusion. He forwarded his money to Calcutta having intentions to embark from that port. He decided to stage a grand farewell party for a number of his friends. He made all arrangements for this to be a memorable affair. Rare delicacies were secured; wines, champagnes and other choice liquors were to be had in abundance. Unique fruits, meats and silver covered the huge table spread out in a large hall especially hired for the occasion.

During the course of the party, several of his guests became involved in a heated discussion on jumping horses, which Murray overheard, and boasted that his Arabian steed could outjump any horse his friends could produce. To prove his point, he declared that he would jump his horse over the vast dining table spread out before them. Murray, obviously inflamed by numerous drinks, got unsteadily to his feet and called his servant to fetch his horse.

He was warned by several of his closest friends that this would be a foolhardy stunt, and tried to persuade him to reconsider. Murray being in a stubborn mood, was more determined than ever, and quickly mounted the saddle. Turning his charger about so as to get a running start, he was again warned of the dangers of the undertaking, but Murray brushed his friends aside, wheeled, and charged the table.

Just as the horse leaped clear of the table, those standing near eagerly watching the daring feat, saw a piece of the heavy trapping that covered the table get entwined in the horse's hind hooves, and both rider and horse were thrown heavily to the floor. Murray's friends quickly disentangled him from the remains of the banquet, and placed him carefully on a sofa. A doctor was sent for, and after a brief examination announced that Murray suffered from internal injuries. These injuries were improperly treated, and after several days of intense pain he died, a victim of his own foolish escapade.

Upon his death it was discovered that he had made a will, and by this instrument it was found he had left several bequests to some military friends. The greater amount of his money, some 25,000 rupees, he left to his wife Jane, of whom nothing is known. He also stipulated that the sum of money he had previously sent to America was to "remain in the hands of those to whom I sent it for their own proper use." He further

stated that "the property now going to America I do not consider as belonging to any person." This property refers to a large quantity of India goods sent to the firm of Dutch and Deland of Salem, Massachusetts, which was later valued at some \$20,000.

The records of the Probate Court in Boston show that during the year 1814 John Mowry and Mary Harvey, claiming to be brother and sister of James Murray, tried to claim the estate, but after a court deliberation their claim was denied. Upon reading the will it is apparent that Murray gave no thought to any of his family in America, possibly not knowing whether any of them survived.

Another interesting item taken from the will is the official title given to Murray, as it refers to him as "late a captain in the military services of the Doulat Rao Scindia," and a bit later "Zeminder of Benares." The term Zeminder means "a native landlord or person recognized as possessing some property in the soil under his jurisdiction." Here again -- why did Murray refer to his services in the Indian service instead of the British?

It was during the year 1805 that Daniel Austin of Coventry, Rhode Island, saw Murray in Calcutta. He describes him as being "a man of great activities and bodily strength, about thirty-five years old, five feet and a half tall, stocky, dark complexion, dark blue eyes and brown hair." A sizeable account of his life and death appears in the New York Gazette of May 19, 1807. This article was given to the Gazette reporter by someone who knew Murray quite well. The article suggests that Murray had a secret desire to return to India with other men who could be recruited and join forces with some of the Mahratta chiefs, and fight against the British. He firmly believes, the article continues, that a strong force of soldiers led by a few daring officers would be sufficient to shake the British rule in India.

The Articles of Peace, signed at the conclusion of this war definitely states that the Rajahs would never recruit foreigners into their military service.

To conclude this article and to give authenticity to the claim that Murray was born in Newport, the writer has in his possession a letter stating that a gravestone in the North Park Street Burial Ground in Calcutta reads:

Sacred to the memory of
Major James Murray
native of Newport N.A.
Who died in Calcutta
September 3, 1806
in the 36th year of his age.

Elton M. Manuel

INTERIOR DECORATOR 847-5163
William H. Fullerton
41 Washington Street

THE ST. LEO SHOP 847-5428
117 Washington Street
Religious books, icons, and statues.

LEARY'S OIL COMPANY, INC.
Range & Fuel Oil Metered Service
George Leary, Proprietor
47 Washington Street 847-5591

BRIGET'S BEAUTY BAR 847-0236
44 Connell Highway
By Appointment Only
Mrs. Joseph Waluk, Res. 34 Third Street.

HELEN'S BEAUTY SALON
All Branches of Beauty Service
3 Stone Street 846-1165
Helen Preece Willis, Proprietor
Residence, 16 Second Street.

CORPUS CHRISTI CARMEL
RETREAT HOUSE
21 Battery Street 847-6165
Religious Articles and Cards
for All Occasions

GAMAGE'S VARIETY STORE
9 Thames Street 847-9626
Candy, Cigars, Cold Cuts
Ice Cream, Magazines, Newspapers

NEWPORT COUNTY SECRETARIAL SERVICES
Shorthand Typing
Mimeographing Photo-Copy Accounting
63 Touro Street 847-6577

MATHIEUS VARIETY
62-1/2 Third Street 847-1755
Meats - Groceries - Provisions
Strictly Island Eggs

RESTORATIONS, INC.
127 Thames Street 847-5727
Fabrics and Wallpapers All prices
Slipcovers, Drapery, Upholstery

FORD PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS
Daryl G. Ford 846-2658
Colonial Restorations

THE JOHN STEVENS SHOP
Founded in 1705
29 Thames Street 846-0566
Letter Carving on Wood and Stone.

Carpentry, painting, cabinet making, roofing.

TRAVEL, INC.

GREETINGS!

Authorized Travel Agents Handling Scheduled
Airlines, Steamships, Cruises, Tours, Hotels.
42 Spring Street 846-8000

Keep up the good work!

Leffy.

NEWPORT CRAFTS 846-7243 Old Brick Market 127 Thames Street
Home of historic Newport reproductions.
Furniture, china, silver, and gifts.

REGINALD M. BRYER 24 Van Zandt Avenue 846-1053
Picture Framing. Oil Paintings restored, cleaned and varnished.
Engravings, etchings and lithographs cleaned and bleached.

WASHBURN'S BOOKSHOP 152 Spring Street 846-3521

NEWPORT HISTORIC GUIDE

NEWPORT TOURS OF ESTATES

Illustrated. At 75¢ each, you'll want both booklets.

Adults and Children's Books.

Special Orders Welcomed.

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
Editor: 22 Bridge Street
NEWPORT R. I.