

SAVE THE DATES *invite a neighbor and participate*

“Six Degrees of Separation: the Craftsman Community in Newport”,
a lecture by Alice Dickinson, Preservation Society of Newport,
Wednesday, June 12, 7:00 p.m., St. John’s Guildhall

POINT PICNIC: Friday, June 28, 6:00 p.m.
The Comforts’ garden, 62 Washington Street

SUMMER COCKTAIL PARTY: Thursday, August 22, 6:00 p.m.
Villa Marina, 72 Washington Street

THE GREEN LIGHT
The Point Association
P.O. Box 491
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Watch for “Point Happenings” emails
and...visit: www.thepointassociation.org,
to keep informed between issues of *The Green Light*

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SUMMER 2013



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Meetings are generally scheduled for the first Monday of the month and are open to Association members. Please call Beth for time, date, and location.

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Copies of *The Green Light* may be purchased for \$1.00 at Bucci's Convenience Store, Poplar at Thames Streets.



promoting public policies that strengthen all of Newport's neighborhoods.

The Point Association
The Point Association is a group of neighbors working together to improve the quality of life in our neighborhood by getting to know each other; preserving our historic heritage; maintaining the Point's residential character; beautifying our parks, streets, and piers; and promoting public policies that strengthen all of Newport's neighborhoods.

Cover:
Photo by Jane Hence



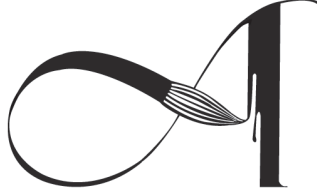
After a beautiful spring filled with familiar annual events like the Point Association's members' meeting, park cleanups and plant sale, and the more unusual event this spring, the May 4th opening of our Royal Charter's 350th anniversary celebration, the Point shifts into summer gear. On the one hand, the "summer people" lured by the city's amenities and numerous cultural events, enhanced this year by the 350th commemoration; on the other, the year-round residents and the issues that will continue to absorb them long after the tourists have gone.

The ALN and the Point Association continue to be invaluable in the service of this resident community, keeping the neighborhood informed and advocating for solutions to the issues that challenge the Point and the city. Along with its natural beauty and its historic houses, these two organizations contribute immeasurably to the cohesiveness and the "sense of place" that define this unique community. Small wonder that so many choose to live here. May it always be so.

Alice

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THE POINT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM
Please mail this form to: PO Box 491, Newport, RI 02840, with check made payable to: *The Point Association*
If you prefer, apply and pay online at: www.thepointassociation.org

___ Individual \$10 ___ Family \$15 ___ Subscriber \$25* ___ Patron \$40*
*Subscriber & Patron levels support The Point Association's continued efforts to beautify and protect our special neighborhood.

Please check membership status: ___ Renewal ___ New Member

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Primary Email: _____

POINT COMMITTEES & ACTIVITIES
Many hands make light work. Please check your volunteer interests.

___ Beautification ___ Waterfront ___ *The Green Light* ___ Plant Sale ___ Communications

___ Membership ___ Event Planning ___ History & Archives ___ Public Services

Thank You !

“SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION: THE CRAFTSMAN COMMUNITY IN NEWPORT”

This is the title of what promises to be an interesting lecture by Alice Dickinson, the Decorative Arts Fellow at The Preservation Society of Newport County. Ms. Dickinson holds master’s degrees from the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture at the University of Delaware (2012) and from Tulane University (Art History, 2007; B.A. 2006). Before attending Winterthur Alice was a collections manager at the New Orleans Museum of Art, where she returned last year to curate MASS PRODUCED:

Technology in Nineteenth-Century English Design.

Alice has published on topics ranging from the retail of silver in nineteenth-century New Orleans, to the decorative arts of colonial Newport, the latter evidenced by her recent article in *Antiques & Fine Art*,

“Hunter House and the Point:

A Community of Consumers and Craftsmen in Eighteenth-Century Newport.”

Alice will use objects from Hunter House to explore social connections between local artisans in her talk which will take place on

June 12, 7:00 p.m., at the St John’s Guildhall.

Her talk will give us yet another glimpse into our neighborhood’s fascinating past.

PRESIDENT’S LETTER

A “C” is not often heralded as a sign of academic excellence, unless that “C” stands for community, cooperation, communication, caring, collaboration, and civic-involvement. Here on the Point, our commitment to our neighborhood and our city deserves an A+!

Others feel that way, too. Recently, *Rhode Island Monthly* magazine chose Second Street as one of the best streets to live on and featured a beautiful Point home on their cover. In May, the *Providence Journal* picked The Point as its “Neighborhood of the Week.” This recognition is flattering and validates what we all know: the Point is a special place graced with an abundance of cultural texture, but without constant vigilance and an eye to preservation, safety, and connections, things could quickly unravel.

Here is a case in point. Recently I took a call from an alert Washington Street resident telling me that a city work crew was removing historic paving stones from the Willow Street driftway. Thanks to Anne Cuvelier and Laurie Shaw, we contacted the city which promised to restore the streetscape once utility projects have been completed in 2014. The *Newport Daily News* saw that the city’s treatment of our 18th Century street warranted front page coverage.

Also in the news was coverage of a roundtable discussion sponsored by the Alliance for a Livable Newport. As the city’s oldest and largest neighborhood group, the Point Association hosted this initial gathering which brought over 20 leaders together. Fellow neighborhood leaders plan to continue meeting, with a focus on sharing information, building trust and support while working to establish partnerships with our city government. By combining our collective experiences, we will certainly be a healthier and more informed community.

The benefits of the security mantra “see something, say something” are paying off. Over the past months, we’ve had a series of crimes, from car break-ins to thefts of copper downspouts! Lt. Bill Fitzgerald, Commander of the Community Oriented Policing unit, deserves a hearty thank you. Through his leadership and willingness to partner with residents, Newport police have quickly apprehended many of the perpetrators. A key to this collaboration is a tool called “Nextdoor.” This private social media system serves as a virtual “neighborhood watch.” To date, over 200 Point neighbors stay connected through Nextdoor. In addition to advising us of safety issues, it provides an efficient way to share information about such things as lost pets, gardening advice, repairman, and social events.

Please visit ThePointAssociation.org where you will find links to news stories, Nextdoor registration, and a new one-click way to reach all seven City Council members who want and need to hear from you. Also, while there, log on and update your contact information and be sure that your membership dues are current. While we honor our cherished history, we also know that 21st Century communication is helpful and here to stay. In that vein, you may now elect to receive a digital edition of the *Green Light*. If you wish to save paper and postage, please select this preference in your member profile when logged on to our website.

The thank you list of those who have volunteered their time, talent, and treasure, is too long for this printed page, but please know, all who contributed to our potluck dinner, Earth Day clean-up, spring membership meeting, plant sale, history lecture, Marsh Street median restoration, and all the other activities that make our Point neighborhood such a remarkable place are greatly appreciated! Thank you! I, along with the Executive Committee, give you ALL a well-deserved A+ for your efforts to build community, cooperation, communication, caring, collaboration, and civic-involvement!

I wish you a very happy, peaceful, and breezy Point summer and hope to see you at the picnic!

Beth Cullen



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Past 12 Months Sales on the Point

43 Farewell Street	\$220,000
7 Second Street	\$257,000
5 Cross Street	\$342,200
3 Mayberry Court	\$416,000
15 Cross Street	\$420,000
114 Second Street	\$430,000
4 Willow Street	\$440,000
105 Third Street	\$450,000
66 ½ Third Street	\$455,000
34 Bayside Avenue	\$575,000
14 Poplar Street	\$594,500
59 Poplar Street	\$627,000
35 Second Street	\$710,000
75 Washington Street	\$890,000
100 Washington Street	\$4,000,000

Source: RI Statewide MLS– as of April 30, 2013

This information is deemed reliable but is not guaranteed

TOUGH QUESTIONS AT AN OPEN TOWN HALL MEETING

by Isabel Griffith

Alliance for a Livable Newport asked the public to submit questions for the School Committee and the City Council for an April 16 “town hall” meeting held at the Newport Public Library. The questions were thoughtful, timely and in many cases, tough. Moderator Patty Macleish encouraged questions from the floor as well. A lively discussion reminded the audience of some ongoing tensions between the School Committee and the City Council.

The most provoking question was a simple one, “Why can’t the School Committee come up with a timely annual budget?” Clearly, this is an issue that affects the entire city budget, a point made by Mayor Harry Winthrop and Vice Chair Naomi Neville. “We could save half a million dollars a year if the city took over the school budget and many other non-educational functions,” according to Winthrop.

But Charles Shoemaker, Chair of the School Committee, cautioned, “There are a lot of unknowns that complicate the issue,” “There is hardly any trust between the Council and the School Committee,” said Jo Eva Gaines, Vice Chair. “Trust would improve if we got more accurate information on finances,” Neville responded. The controversy continues as the city has begun to hold budget meetings. If the tension increases it is bound to have some effect on the search for a new Superintendent of the Newport Schools.

Some other questions were:

Math scores on the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) for Rogers’ class of 2012-13 show 38% substantially below proficient and 35% partially proficient. Will those scores affect the graduation of students? Only 2% scored proficient with distinction. How is the School Committee planning to address this situation?

Please give us your thoughts about the proposed STEAM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Arts/Math) Charter School for Aquidneck Island. In favor? Not in favor? Why?

Do you favor a Pay As You Throw program for garbage similar to Middletown’s?

The city did an outstanding job last season handling parking for special events. Does the City Council have plans to improve the parking situation for regular summer visitors? What about a new parking facility?

To view the video of the Town Hall meeting, check out the ALN website, <http://newportalliance.org/> and click on Forum Videos.



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SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

by Tom Kennedy



The Spring Membership Meeting was held on Thursday evening, April 18th, in St. John’s Hall. About forty members and guests attended. Beth Cullen, Point Association President, welcomed the attendees and presided over a short business meeting, fielding reports from the Treasurer, the Beautification Committee and the Membership Committee. The business meeting concluded with some remarks by Beth on several topics including the upcoming plant sale and the revitalization of the History and Archives Committee. Beth then introduced each of the speakers in what proved to be a wide-ranging and interesting series of presentations.



James Wermuth spoke about the approaching 350th anniversary of the Newport Charter and John Clarke’s importance in establishing a colony in which, for the first time, church and state were separated and freedom of religion was written into the law. He also informed the audience about upcoming festivities, including Morris dancing and a play, which will take place to celebrate the charter on May 4th in Washington Square.

The second speaker, Lt. William Fitzgerald of the Newport Police Department, made a case and a plea for increasing communication between the public and the police department. He encouraged more community activism to help solve crimes, combat vandalism, and improve the quality



of life in the Point area. He also introduced fellow officers, one of whom has a regular patrol on the Point, and encouraged audience members to get to know their neighborhood policemen.

Marco Camacho, newly elected councilman in the first ward, then took the floor and spoke mainly about Newport’s declining and aging population and the need to establish more economic opportunities in Newport to attract young professionals and their families. He stressed the importance of the development of the north end and the need to improve the school system. He also favors regionalization of police and fire departments on Aquidneck Island and changes in the municipal budget procedures of Newport.

Paul Carroll, Newport’s recently appointed Director of Economic Development, then spoke and agreed wholeheartedly with Mr. Camacho that the creation of economic opportunities for young, talented people was also a high priority on his agenda. He looked forward to establishing public-private partnerships to help solve some of Newport’s problems. North end development presented the largest single opportunity for achieving real economic progress, but he also stressed the importance of small-scale ventures and the integrated development of the old naval hospital land. He also saw benefits in establishing relations between Newport and other cities with common interests. He welcomed comments and suggestions from concerned citizens.

Each of the talks was followed by a question and answer period. The evening ended with refreshments and much private conversation among the audience and the participants.

IT'S DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN

by Ed Madden

The New York Yankees' all-star catcher, Yogi Berra, was responsible for many memorable "fractured English" gems, such as this article's title. Known as "Yogi-isms", his expressions bring delight to listener and reader alike. Two recent talks at the 8 Bells Lecture Series at the Naval War College Museum brought to mind this example of his rhetorical style.

In the Spring, 2012, edition of the *Green Light*, I related the story of the aircraft carrier, the *USS Franklin*, and its trials and tribulations, as told by John Satterfield, a retired Naval Reserve Officer and historian. He gave a talk at the Naval War College Museum and at the conclusion of his talk a Portsmouth, R.I., resident, Bill Nott, unexpectedly stood up and explained that he was a machinist mate on the *Franklin* when it was bombed by a Japanese kamikaze pilot.

On 7/12/12, at another 8 Bells Lecture, Lawrence Verria, a history teacher at North Kingstown High School, related the story of the Kissing Sailor – about an iconic photograph taken in Times Square, NYC, on the day that the Japanese surrendered and World War II ended. Mr. Verria had traced the identity of the unknown sailor in the photograph to George Mendonsa, a Newport resident and also present at the lecture to add additional drama to the scene. The back story on George is that he was the quartermaster on the destroyer, the *Sullivan*, assigned to a task force composed of more than 40 aircraft carriers plus destroyers, cruisers and a hospital ship, including the aircraft carriers, *Franklin* and *Bunker Hill*.

This formidable fighting force was assembled to protect the U.S. Army and Marine troops landing and fighting on Okinawa, the last Japanese island stronghold in the Pacific in World War II. The primary objective of this task force was to prevent any Japanese reinforcements from landing on Okinawa and to destroy any enemy aircraft attempting to attack the U.S. forces on the island.

What the U.S. high command didn't anticipate was the 350 Japanese kamikaze planes that attacked the task force! Both the *Franklin* and the *Bunker Hill* were preparing to launch their aircraft which were being fueled and

armed. Both carriers were struck by bomb-laden kamikaze airplanes causing explosions among the sitting duck American planes, pilots and crew. The explosions were fueled by the high octane gasoline and ammunition resulting in fire storms throughout the flight decks. Many crew members jumped overboard, often into waters ablaze with burning fuel.

During this chaotic time frame, Bill Nott remained on duty in the boiler room of the *Franklin* desperately trying to keep power up in the ship's boiler. George Mendonsa remained at the helm of the *Sullivan*, steering his ship as close to the *Bunker Hill* as possible to assist in the rescue of the crewmen struggling to stay afloat in the deadly waters. Eventually 166 survivors were brought safely on board thanks in no small measure to George's skill in handling his ship.

Damage to the *Bunker Hill* was a déjà vu replica to that of the *Franklin*. The ship's crew was able to save the badly damaged vessel, extinguishing the fires and enabling her to return safely to Pearl Harbor for repairs. The *Bunker Hill* later returned to the Bremerton Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington, for more extensive refitting. Like her sister ship, the *Franklin*, she was undergoing rehabilitation at the end of the war. Both were then declared superfluous and were not reactivated for combat duty. They were eventually sold for scrap.

I would like to remind our readers that the Eight Bells Book Lecture Series is ongoing and, in my opinion, not to be missed. You don't have to have a military affiliation to attend these stimulating lectures. Call the Museum, 841-2101, to receive information and make a reservation.



THE POINT IN NEWPORT: *Providence Journal's* "Neighborhood of the Week"

For those who may have missed it, the *Providence Journal's* Sunday, May 5th, issue featured the Point on the first page of its Homes section. After reminding her readers that Newport "has more than 300 standing pre-Revolutionary War buildings, more than any other city in the United States," 71 of them owned by the Newport Restoration Foundation and 12 of those on the Point, the author, Christine Dunn, briefly describes the neighborhood as a primarily residential section, laid out in a grid. She continues:

Because The Point was designed by Quakers, who did not believe in naming streets after people, many of the east-west streets were named after trees, noted Beth Cullen, president of The Point Association, a neighborhood group. Washington Street was originally called First Street, and the east-west street names include Pine, Cherry, Chestnut, Walnut, Willow, Poplar and Elm streets.

One of the founders of Newport, Nicholas Easton, first settled in the area during the 17th century, and his heirs began to sell lots there in 1725.

Washington Street is home to a number of large homes. But many of the oldest houses in the neighborhood are more modestly sized, built for the artisans and tradesmen who once worked and lived there.

The Captain John Warren House, built in 1737 at 62 Washington St., housed the French artillery in 1780-81. An Anglican church, St. John the Evangelist, a handsome stone building at the corner of Washington and Willow streets, was built in 1894. Harbor House, a collection of historical houses, including 111 Washington St., once owned by the Auchincloss family, is now used as housing for senior citizens. There are 37 studio and one-bedroom units there.

the neighborhood: the Point Association and its work, the *Green Light*, the Point's unusual demographic configuration, with its weekend and summer residents, a core group of life-long and year-long residents, and an interesting group of new people, "young professionals who work in the yachting industry."

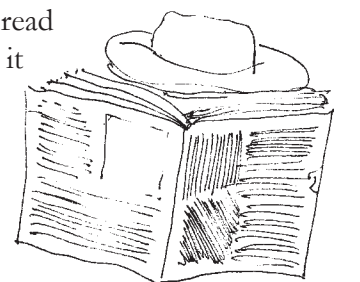
Since Section E of the *Journal's*, after all, the real estate section, Christine Dunn concludes with a useful and enlightening review of the recent sales in the neighborhood.

Current listings of homes for sale in The Point range in price from \$279,000, for a one-bedroom condo at 62 ½ Third St., to \$1,150,000, for a three-bedroom, three-bathroom house at 49 Third St.

A four-bedroom, three-bathroom home at 64 Third St. was recently sold for \$475,000. One of the gems of the neighborhood, the c. 1876 John W. Bigelow Carriage House at 79 Second St., designed by architect Charles F. McKim of McKim, Mead & White fame, is under contract to be sold. The 10-room, 5-bedroom house was last listed for \$1,595,000.

In 1876, Bigelow, a wealthy cotton merchant who summered in Newport, commissioned McKim, who was his son-in-law, to design a carriage house for his summer estate at 94 Washington St. The Bigelow house on Washington Street no longer exists, but the carriage house is considered an early example of McKim's shingle style, which he would later bring to such landmarks as the Newport Casino and the Isaac Bell House. The carriage house fell into disrepair until it was purchased and restored in 2005 by Jon and Caroline Schoudel.

Those who would like to read the whole article will find it on our website: ThePointAssociation.org.



THE 350TH CHARTER CELEBRATION CONTINUES

by James Wermuth

Following the John Clarke Society’s joyous May Fair celebration honoring Rhode Island’s Colonial Charter of 1663, hopes are high for yet another celebration. With the event scheduled for Saturday, 5 October, the Society is developing plans to celebrate both John Clarke’s 404th birthday and the 350th anniversary of the Charter’s arrival in Newport.

Society advisor, Ambassador J. Wm. Middendorf, a true Renaissance gentleman and noted composer, has composed a John Clarke March for the occasion. The March and several other selected compositions by the Ambassador will be played by the Northeast United States Navy Band. This event, while honoring Clarke’s birthday and the Charter, will also invite attendees to reflect on the sustained benevolence issuing forth from this most singular of Newport’s founders. From drafting and procuring the Charter at great risk to his life, to marrying two widows and therefore providing for their well-being, to establishing America’s first and still viable educational trust for the education of orphans and widows, John Clarke exemplified the American dream in a remarkable way.

With plans a long way from finalized, the Society invites the great neighborhood living on Easton’s Point to send in their suggestions. It would be wonderful to have a true community created and celebrated by community. The foundations are there. Come participate in celebrating our heritage.



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(Continued from page 11)


Read more.....

1. The National Parks Service, Guidelines for Preserving Cultural Landscapes <http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/four-treatments/landscape-guidelines/preserve/special.htm>
2. Americans with Disabilities Act/ ADA Chapter 1 - Disability Rights Legislation and Accessibility Guidelines and Standards in the United States http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/publications/side-walks/chap1.cfm
3. ASLA Complete Streets Legislation <http://www.asla.org/FederalGovernmentAffairs.aspx?id=22886>

Tanya Kelley is the founder and principal of Place studio Landscape Design based in Newport, RI. She received a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture from The City College of the City of New York and a Masters of Landscape Architecture from The Rhode Island School of Design. Tanya has taught at the Landscape Architecture schools of both the Boston Architectural College and the University of Rhode Island. She has served on the Newport Planning Board, The Aquidneck Island Planning Commission, and currently serves on The Critical Area Review Board and the Washington Square Advisory Commission.

Tanya grew up in Newport, moved to NYC in 1983 and returned in 2004. She currently lives here with her husband and three step-children.

“Own the water, not the boat!”



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ELM STREET DRIFTWAY at Washington Street
MATERIALS AND DIMENSIONS:
Crosswalk: Bluestone and cobble set in concrete
Driftway: asphalt to shoreline
COMMENTS:
This driftway has two strips of bluestone and one strip of cobble set in concrete.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS WILL BE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE

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NEIGHBORS
HELPING NEIGHBORS

by Joan Rauch

Recently, a high school student offered to clean the Point driftways for his senior project. The Association Board began wondering if there were other ways that neighbors could help neighbors. There may be other students or other residents who are interested in service work.

In the infancy stage of facilitating a neighborhood service group, we are simply asking for your input: are there members out there who are willing to help neighbors, and are there members who need help?

We are thinking that perhaps there are neighbors who would be willing to help out an elderly resident with raking leaves or moving a piece of furniture. Perhaps there is someone who needs occasional transportation and someone who is willing to drive a short distance. There are many possibilities. There would be no formal exchange of money.

A more civil society – that is the goal of the neighborhood: community, relationships between and among all, ethical conduct and empowerment.

Please email Joan Rauch at joanrauch16@yahoo.com with comments, or if you are interested in helping or being helped. Watch for future information based on replies to this request.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING
THE POINT ASSOCIATION
WEBSITE

by Joan Rauch

You are invited and encouraged to benefit from the Point Association website by using it frequently. Please login to www.thepointassociation.org to join as a member, to renew your membership, and for notification on happenings and events in the neighborhood.

TO JOIN:

Open website

Select desired membership level

Click “next”

Type in your email address

Type security code

Click “next”

Complete application form

Click “next”

Review and confirm

Click “confirm and proceed with payment”

Pay either online following the prompts or mail your payment to address listed.

TO RENEW:

Sign into the website by typing your email address and password in the upper right hand corner

Click on “view profile”

You will be directed to your personal contact information

Please be sure that all information is current

Follow the prompts to make a payment online

At any time through the process that you need help, feel free to contact either corrsecretary@thepointassociation.org or president@thepointassociation.org.

HARBOR HOUSE ST. PATRICK’S
DAY COMMUNITY GATHERING


by Liz Mathinos

On St. Patrick’s Day afternoon, Chayan Medina and his team of Point volunteers prepared and served a delicious corned beef and cabbage dinner to the elderly residents of Harbor House along with many Point neighbors. Chayan, a young chef-in-training at Johnson and Wales, organized the community meal, by recruiting Point neighbors through the nextdoor@nextdoor website. Generous donations of time and money, along with contributions from Stop and Shop and Newport Storm provided a memorable meal that shall long be remembered. The Point Association donated a beautiful hydrangea plant, which was raffled and won by Cheryl Groves. Harbor House residents did their part, under the leadership of Ann Daly, and decorated the dining room in traditional green. After an outstanding meal, Betty Gigantino and Lorraine Thomson, supervised the cleanup. Harbor House residents shall long remember this fine community effort by this talented young man, Chayan Medina.




Above: Chayan Medina with Maura Lindsey & Martha Christoma;
Top to Bottom: Bill Cartier and Jane List; Kay O’Brien;
Bob & Bennie Flanders; Betty Gigantino
and Cheryl Groves & Point Association hydrangea
Photos by Liz Mathinos






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OLD POINT DAYS



This photo, taken in the mid-1950s, was submitted by Susan Faerber Kelchner. The boy with the big box is her oldest brother, Peter Faerber. The one to his right is another brother, Andrew Faerber. The woman behind them is their grandmother, Marion Bailey Dawley, who grew up on Second Street and then moved to Warner Street where she lived until her death in 1995.


Can anyone identify the other people? Is there any record of the prizewinners?



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to say that Thomas “looked very fiery upon her” and he had said that “her name did stink about ye island.” His defense was that she was leading a very miserable life, carried a pen knife, and said many times she was going to do away with herself. Her burned clothes must have been caused by the embers from the pipe she was smoking. Thomas, however, was found guilty and was hanged at Miantonomi Hill as mentioned above. His pregnant wife gave birth after the hanging and named her daughter “Innocent Cornell. (1673-1720)” Innocent grew up marrying Richard Borden (1671-1732) – her first cousin.

My fifth great grandfather, Richard Borden (1722-1795), was an avid Tory during the Revolutionary War – until the British burned his home, grist, and saw mills. He was captured and spent several days in a Newport prison.

Accused of murdering her mother and father in the trial of the nineteenth century was another Borden - Lizzy Borden (1860-1927). She was living a little off-island in Fall River, but she was my third cousin, three times removed. She was judged innocent.

My first cousin, eight times removed was also named “Innocent” - Innocent Lake (1718-1809). Her Grandmother, Alice Lake (1621-1651) was tried and found guilty as a witch and hanged in Dorchester, Massachusetts. She was a mother of five, but lost her last baby. After the infant died, she imagined she saw it alive again. The town’s people claimed that the devil was coming to her in the form of the deceased beloved baby and accused her of witchcraft. Her husband and children sadly returned to Portsmouth.

Susanna Wright (1627-1678) came to Newport with her half-brother George Wright (1615-1684) in 1642. He turned out to be a scoundrel and was accused of adultery. Roger Williams even wrote a letter to Governor John Winthrop that said: (George Wright was caught) “stabbing Walter Lettice at Newport with a pike and if not dead, not likely to live.” George Wright spent most of 1648 in a Newport jail.

Also in Newport, my ancestor Ann Hill Tallman (1633-1682) was whipped in public, in 1667, with fifteen lashes for adultery – probably with a Robert Durfee. She had written a letter to her husband, Peter Tallman, that her youngest daughter was not his.

Her husband, Peter Tallman, (1623-1708) must have been a difficult man. He was away from home on business for long periods of time, and when he was home he made enemies of his neighbors. This litigious man was in court a dozen times being sued or suing someone.

With all the bad there had to be some good. I found eight ancestral families (all 9th great grandparents) that had settled in either Portsmouth or Newport in the early sixteen hundreds. Most came from England in the Great Puritan Migration and arrived in Boston about 1633 in such vessels named the “Lyon”, “Ann”, and “Blessing.” They found that living under the harsh Puritan rule in the Massachusetts Bay Colony was not to their liking and most followed the footsteps of Ann Hutchinson to Aquidneck Island. I am proud that my ancestor Philip Sherman (1610-1687) signed the Portsmouth Compact in March 1638. This Compact is considered by many to be the first declaration of religious freedom in the colonies. It was the first document in history that severed both political and religious ties with England, and has also been called the first instrument for governing as a true democracy.



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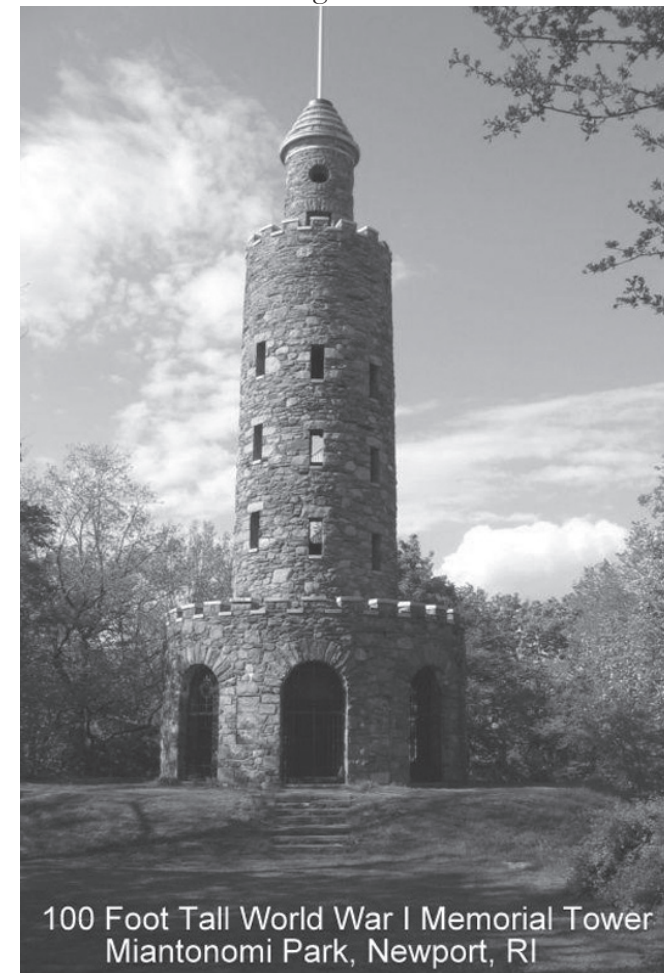
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THE SKELETONS IN MY AQUIDNECK ISLAND CLOSET

by Dave Moore

On Veterans Day last year, my wife, two dogs, and I visited the World War I Memorial Tower at the Miantonomi Park in Newport. The tower, built in 1927, is only open to the public on that day and Memorial Day. Although this was our first visit, I knew the Narragansett Indians used the area for hundreds of years and it was named after their Chief Miantonomi. Early settlers used the hill as a look-out and in 1667 built a beacon atop the Hill. Fortifications were also made here during the American Revolution.



I thought there would be a parking area in the park and drove all around it on Hillside and Girard Avenues but found none. We parked the car on the street closest to the children’s playground of swing sets and slides. I was also surprised there were no visible signs marking the way to the tower, but we met a Korean War vet and followed him up a steep trail through the woods. He said he came every year on this day as he grew up and played in the park as a youngster. I admit, at my age, I had to rest a few times

because of the steep climb, but the tower was always in sight even above the tall trees. When we finally arrived, I was surprised that we were the only ones there except for a man and a woman who acted as the docents. I had no intention of climbing the tower as I was exhausted and am afraid of heights. My wife immediately left me, went inside, and started up the long spiral stairs. The docents convinced me to try the climb while they held the leashes for our dogs. I did manage to climb about half way up and looked out a narrow window. I could hear my wife from above me say she had reached the top of the stairs and was climbing a ladder to the very top. I think my fear clicked in again and I retreated to my dogs at the bottom.

I had a sudden uneasy feeling - a sense of foreboding. The stone tower, itself, with narrow slot windows seemed cold and macabre. This was the place for seventeenth century executions. Rhode Island author H.P. Lovecraft could have spun a great short story about this eerie location. I did not come to this veterans’ memorial because I was a veteran, nor was it to see the view of Newport from this height. It was a morbid curiosity that pulled me here. At this very spot my ninth great grandfather was hanged in 1673. I could visualize the large crowds, the scaffold, the preacher, and the two condemned - an Indian and my ancestor. Nearby would be the wooden signal tower with a burning beacon on top.

* * *

I have found that if your hobby is genealogy you should beware. Researching your ancestry doesn’t always turn up heroes and royalty. It may turn up first cousin marriages, adulterers, witches, unsavory characters, and even murderers. Here are some of my bad ones:

Thomas Cornell (1627-1673) was accused of murdering his mother. She was found lying dead on the floor in her bedroom while the rest of the family was having dinner in the main room. Her clothes were partially burned and there was a small stab-like wound on her abdomen. Thomas, the last to see her alive, was accused and brought to trial. Part of the evidence against him was a dream his mother’s brother had. In the dream, shortly after her death, an apparition appeared at the end of his bed. It looked like his sister and said: “Look how I have been burned.” Others said Thomas had borrowed a hundred pounds from her and was supposed to pay her back in rent payments and promised to hire her a servant. This never happened. His mother had also been heard

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PINE STREET DRIFTWAY at Washington Street
MATERIALS AND DIMENSIONS:
 Crosswalk: Bluestone, brick and Belgium Block
 Driftway: Asphalt roadbed leads to rocks at shoreline (no steps)
COMMENTS:
 This is the only driftway (as far as I can tell) that has brick and Belgium block at the crosswalk. There are no steps at this driftway.



CHERRY STREET DRIFTWAY at Washington Street
MATERIALS AND DIMENSIONS:
 Crosswalk: Bluestone evidenced at surface.
 Driftway: Asphalt roadbed leads to shoreline via concrete steps.
COMMENTS:
 This driftway has bluestone and asphalt may be covering other materials at the crosswalk.
 The concrete steps at this driftway are incorporated into a concrete bulkhead.



CHESTNUT STREET DRIFTWAY at Washington Street
MATERIALS AND DIMENSIONS:
 Crosswalk: Bluestone and cobble
 Drift way: dirt and grass
COMMENTS:
 This driftway has two strips of bluestone and two strips of cobble.

NOW YOU SEE IT... NOW YOU DON'T

by Laurie Shaw and Tanya Kelley

It's early May, our beautiful city is bursting forth with new spring growth, and we are breathing a collective sigh of relief after a winter that has left its mark.

At the end of October, Hurricane Sandy flooded the southern end of our neighborhood with seawater and the effects are now coming into focus. The Marsh St. median and surrounds have lost four significant evergreen trees planted in 1976. Many, many neighbors lost plantings that couldn't survive the salty flood.

Then came winter storm Nemo – an icy, wet, heavy blanket destroyed many branches and trees. As we travel the Point, we see blank spots where a welcome, green friend used to grow. A feeling of loss is inescapable, after all, you can't control Mother Nature.

Another loss we are definitely feeling was not caused by Mother Nature but by the City's removal of bluestone sidewalk pavers and cobblestones from the Willow St. Driftway recently. According to City Manager, Jane Howington, it is a "temporary repair in which the removal of severely deteriorated pavement provided the opportunity to uncover and temporarily remove some of the underlying round cobblestones until the full road reconstruction is able to be completed." The City is storing the original bluestone and cobbles for reuse. This has caused quite a stir on the Point and at City Hall. Anyone who has seen the quality of the 'repair' to the Elm St. Driftway, by the Hunter House, is correct in questioning the City's approach to our historic street fabric. The Van Zandt bridge also proves to be a good example of a disregard of the importance of a well-designed infrastructure.

Why all the fuss over some stones? Because those stones symbolize the cultural history of The Point and therefore the cultural history of Newport. Authentic, subtle details such as the bluestone and cobble crosswalks at the driftways are cultural artifacts. Wonderful and charming, they remind us of the passage of time in our historic neighborhoods and City. They connect us physically to our past. Our feet are literally traveling over the same stones that our ancestors traveled. It is a cultural narrative of the streets of Newport which needs to be told. This cultural narrative is personally relevant to some citizens who have ancestral ties here, but it is also rel-

evant to those who have adopted Newport as their home and have taken on the role of stewards for Newport's unique architectural heritage. The streetscape, however ephemeral as it may seem, is a built environment and deserves the same consideration given historic buildings.

The Point was the first platted subdivision in Newport. Nicholas Easton's widow left it to the Quakers who subdivided it to sell lots. According to Bert Lippencott, of the Newport Historical Society, the first map to depict the subdivision plan was made in the early 1720's. The Point neighborhood's place in Newport's urban plan begs us to take a sensitive and holistic approach in regards to infrastructural improvements. A comprehensive plan which includes the documentation of existing conditions, historic documentation, and a plan for future infrastructural improvements is one way of insuring thoughtful renovations to The Point neighborhood's historic streets, sidewalks and driftways.

There is currently support for preserving our cultural resources, which include streetscapes, at the federal, state, and local levels. "Complete Streets" policies, adopted by the RI State Legislature in 2012, promote the creation of more walkable and public transportation-oriented communities aimed at improving pedestrian safety and quality of life. "Complete Streets" advocates accessibility for all citizens as well, but how can a city reconcile its historic character with issues of accessibility? Sidewalks are narrow and streets and sidewalks are in need of repair.

The National Parks Service, Guidelines for Preserving Cultural Landscapes, makes recommendations for sidewalk improvements while accommodating ADA accessibility standards and Complete Street Mandates by "Identifying the cultural landscape's character-defining features, materials and finishes so that accessibility code-required work will not result in their damage or loss." Further, it goes on to give helpful solutions.

At the local level the City of Newport's Comprehensive Land Use Plan supports the preservation of our cultural resources in broad terms. The Comprehensive Plan, currently under revision, will hopefully include current thinking by design, planning and public policy professionals on streets and streetscapes. The integration of "Complete Streets" legislation and cultural landscape preservation in the Comprehensive Plan will go a long way to build awareness and support efforts to restore our

historic streetscapes so that this generation of citizens and visitors can "read" the story of Newport through its streets.
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WALNUT STREET DRIFTWAY at Washington Street
MATERIALS AND DIMENSIONS:
 Crosswalk: Bluestone and cobble
 Drift way: dirt and grass
COMMENTS:
 This driftway has two strips of bluestone and two strips of cobble. Bluestone steps lead to beach.



WILLOW STREET DRIFTWAY at Washington Street
MATERIALS AND DIMENSIONS:
 Crosswalk: Bluestone and asphalt
 Drift way: asphalt to shoreline.
COMMENTS:
 This driftway crosswalk was removed for street improvements in May 2013. The original bluestone and cobble are being stored at the Department of Public Works.



POPLAR STREET DRIFTWAY at Washington Street
MATERIALS AND DIMENSIONS:
 Crosswalk: Bluestone and cobble (partially covered by asphalt)
 Driftway: asphalt to shoreline
COMMENTS:
 This driftway seems to have two strips of bluestone and at least one strip of cobble, possibly two.