

Castle Chronicle

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Smiths and Updikes Built a House and a History

Linda Eppich

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Thank-Yous

Richard Smith came to Cocumscussoc as early as 1637, according to a 1679 affidavit by Roger Williams. The first structure he built on the property was probably a fortified trading post—a blockhouse that eventually came to be called Smith's Castle. Smith allowed representatives to run his Narragansett trading business while the family lived in New Amsterdam in the 1640s. In 1650 or 1651, the family came back to Rhode Island, and in 1651, Richard Smith bought

Roger Williams' trading post and lands and moved his family permanently to Cocumscussoc. He willed the property to his only surviving son, Richard Smith, Jr., in 1666.

Richard Smith, Jr. actively supported the Colony of Connecticut's territorial claim to the Narragansett Country, which included most of present-day Washington County. Since many of the Atherton (Boston Neck) land purchasers were from Connecticut,

Smith and Connecticut felt that the claim was legitimate. King Charles II decreed in 1665 that the area be detached from Rhode Island (meaning Newport and Aquidneck) as "the King's Province," thus placing it directly under the King's jurisdiction. This action was unacceptable to both Rhode Island and Connecticut, and the dispute between the two colonies was not settled until 1703.¹ Smith himself actually served as an official for each colony.

burning the blockhouse in 1676. Smith rebuilt by 1678, and the current structure consists of that building plus later additions and modifications.

Richard Smith, Jr. and his wife Esther were childless, but three of Smith's sisters had offspring. When Richard Smith, Jr. died in 1692, he willed the Castle and the plantation to his nephew, Lodowick Updike, son of Gysbert OpDyck and Richard Smith's sister, Katheryne.

—continued on page 6



Updike Family Members. The silhouettes are (l. to r.) Daniel Updike (b.1761), James Updike (b.1763), and Alfred Updike (b.1779). The portraits are Anstis Updike Lee (b.1765) and Wilkins Updike (b.1784). The signatures belong to Daniel Updike and Richard Smith, Jr. Wilkins' portrait and the silhouettes are from *A History of the Episcopal Church in Narragansett* (1907).

This essay by Linda Eppich, former Smith's Castle Trustee and Collections Committee chairperson, resulted from research completed in 1998 that supported the Rhode Island Historical Society exhibition entitled *The King's Province and the Plantations*. The exhibition was held at the Museum of Rhode Island History at Aldrich House from October 1998 through March 1999.

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Note from the President

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,
But he with a chuckle replied
That 'maybe it couldn't' but he would be one
That wouldn't say so till he tried.

—Edgar A. Guest

I have always enjoyed using other people's words. They can explain a feeling, mood, situation, or goal when my words don't seem enough. Guest's poem is one of my favorites, and I trust expresses the attitude of our new Board of Trustees.

I come to my role as president having held many positions of leadership—scout leader, NEA representative, teacher association president, and department chairman for my school. These few simple rules express my leadership style:

1. Surround yourself with talented people.
2. Allow them to "do their thing."
3. Assist when you can add something positive.
4. Otherwise, stay out of their way!

I have great confidence in the talented people surrounding me: Neil Dunay, vice president; Russ Shippee, treasurer; Betty Fenik, secretary; Dick Bowen, past president; and Barbara Carey, resident manager. Their skills and talents—and those of our Trustees—embody the Association's past achievements, and hold the promise of accomplishments yet to come. I'm sure we will meet unexpected situations in the coming year, but I see a future bright with possibilities.

—Jan Breault

From the Annex Window

Volunteerism at Smith's Castle was extraordinary for 2001! Members reported more than 6,300 hours of service. That's equal to three full time employees, but three employees could never keep up with our members and their tremendous volunteer contributions! It's a new year—keep counting those hours! Thanks for all your good work.

April 6 and 7 is Clean-Up Weekend. We need everyone to help tidy up for the opening of the season. Please call 294-3521 to let us know which day you can help. Even an hour or two of your time will mean more fun for all.

Calling all history lovers! The Castle needs more docents for the coming season. Qualifications: love of history and enthusiasm for sharing history with others. Spring training begins Thursday evening, April 11, 6:30–9:00 pm. Presentations given by top-notch trainers cover the entire period of Castle history from pre-European contact to the end of the 1940s, and there are well-designed opportunities to practice giving tours. Classes continue as follows: 9:30–noon, Saturday, April 13; 6:30–9:00 pm, Thursday, April 25; 9:30–noon, Saturday, April 27; 6:30–9:00 pm, Thursday, May 2; 6:30–9:00 pm, Thursday, May 9; and 6:30–9:00 pm, Thursday, May 16. Please help us recruit for this essential and exciting volunteer job. Maybe you are interested too. Call 294-3521 for information.

—Barbara Carey

Welcome New Members

Karen and Paul
Barbera

Robert and Kathy
Brown

Paul and Sarah
Browne

Mark and Marianne
Callahan

Deborah and Kenelm
Coons

Karla and Robert
Driscoll

Daniel and Mimi
Dyer

Paula and Peter
Fahlman

Roger L. Grinnell
Barbara and Tom

Halavik
Linda and David

Hatfield

Karen Kolling

Hans and Sue-Ann
Kresenski

Anne and Harvey
Lieberman

Peter and Clare
Northrup

Carol and Don
Stone

Mrs. Laura D. Swift

Tim Tarbox

Robert and Suzanne
Terry

Dave and Kate
Vivian

—as of 2/11/02

Members Out & About

Congratulations to these members!

Natelli Systems, Inc., Castle business member, was named North Kingstown Chamber of Commerce's February Member of the Month. Guy Natelli is founder and President.

Morgan Bozarth's drawing, *La couleur du printemps*, (facing) won the Announcement Card competition for the Children's and Young Adults' Art Exhibition sponsored by the Hera Gallery of Wakefield. The exhibition runs through March 9.

Annual Meeting Committee Reports

Collections. Work continues on accessioning and cataloguing the current collections as well as new acquisitions from the Updike family. Boxes and storage materials were purchased to house collections not on exhibition. The collecting goal is to acquire objects or archival material that are pre-1840 or relate directly to later occupants or occupations of the Castle.

—Linda Eppich

Collections: Exhibit Subcommittee. Work has continued since March 2001 on an orientation exhibit for the meeting room. The exhibit surveys the history of the Castle from 1600 to 1950. The display panel design and final script are near completion. Two generous contributions will fund panel construction. Final layout will soon be complete, but production of the graphics panels awaits funding needed to purchase images.

—Darrell McIntire

Docents. The Docents had an activity-packed year from Opening Day through Christmas at the Castle. Docent dedication was evidenced in many ways through special events, docent training, hearth cooking classes, the vibrant educational program for children, educational lectures at regular meetings, and gift shop management. Gratitude is extended to the Trustees for the appreciation luncheon in the fall.

—Joyce Fuller and Janice Brown

Education. 2001 saw a 35 percent increase in service to school children and their teachers. The number of children visiting the Castle for regular tours nearly doubled. School-museum partnerships with Davisville Middle and Forest Park Elementary Schools provided opportunities to experiment with innovative methods of experiential learning. Planning is underway for a summer camp in collaboration with the Rhode Island Historical Society and the Roger Williams National Memorial. The Junior Docent program has been renamed the Youth Historian Program. Castle representatives joined other museum leaders in presenting a session on youth programming at the annual conference of the New England Museum Association. The very successful October adult speakers series was supported through the Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities.

—Jan Breault and Chris Kalina

House. Maintenance issues addressed this year were exterior painting and power washing as needed. Interior work included painting of meeting room and plaster repair and painting in back hall and library. The bulkhead was rebuilt; repair work was done on the inside basement door, the front door jamb, a vertical panel in the Richard Smith room, upstairs interior shutters; and knobs were installed on the kitchen/meeting room doors. To meet fire code, fire extinguishers were re-hung, electric was upgraded, and a smoke detector was replaced.

—Mary Turkel

Site and Building Development Committee. Over the past year the committee has: developed goals, objectives, and a time line; applied to two funding agencies to enable the committee to develop a Cultural Landscape Report and enhance the entrance/access to the site; collected maps, aerial photographs, historic

photos, inventories, deeds, wills, and other documents; identified preliminary space requirements for a future building; and developed preliminary overlay maps which identify existing site features and known constraints.

—Mary Turkel

Museum Assessment Program. The MAP team disbanded after the completion of the comprehensive self-study of operations, visit by the MAP site surveyor, and receipt of the surveyor's Institutional Assessment Report. This report serves as a blueprint for strengthening the organization. Among the recommendations and the identification of ten priority areas, three areas were cited for immediate attention: 1. revise the mission statement to reflect future goals and consider broadening the interpretive period to include 20th century history; 2. formalize the long-range plan by establishing a strategic planning committee (committee already appointed and meeting); 3. continue efforts on basic care and accountability of the collections, which involves continuing the inventory, addressing storage issues, and developing an emergency preparedness plan.

—Neil Dunay

Annex. Deteriorated rear doors, door frames, sill and window frame were replaced. All new material was primed and painted. Branches were pruned, roof drains cleaned, and minor plumbing, electrical, carpentry, glass, and screen repairs were completed.

—Robert Shillaber

Membership. Total membership increased from 288 in 2000 to 336 in 2001. The committee introduced gift memberships, and 32 new memberships were purchased through this program. The committee appreciates member support and reminds all members of their importance as a resource to promote membership.

—Cathy Shippee and Ellie Ferguson



Annual Meeting

Association Elects Three New Trustees

Three new trustees were elected at the January 27 annual Association meeting. We welcome John Aubin, Chris Kalina, and Cathe Rezendes to the board.

Trustees are charged with the following responsibilities: participate fully in the decision-making and management process of the Association; be a dues-paying member; attend scheduled meetings and functions; accept responsibility by taking a leadership position on a committee; provide financial support; represent the Association in a positive manner in the community; and seek new members.

John Aubin is a Senior Planner with the North Kingstown Department of Planning and Development where he staffs the Zoning Board of Review and Historic District Commission and is also responsible for the review of commercial and industrial development applications.

A native Rhode Islander, John grew up in West Warwick, attended Bishop Hendricken High School, and graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a major in political science and minors in marine affairs and English. After URI, John attended Vermont Law School where he graduated in 1997 with a juris doctorate degree. He returned to Rhode Island shortly thereafter and was admitted to the Rhode Island Bar in 1998. He practiced law with a Providence law firm for a year prior to accepting his current position with the Planning Department. John is currently a resident of Coventry where he and his wife, Maureen maintain a home in the historic village of Anthony.



While in Vermont, John discovered an avenue to express his life long interest in history through historical reenacting. John is a member of a Vermont-based reenacting group focusing on the portrayal of French troops and civilians from the French and Indian War and the American Revolution. John has been involved in reenacting events throughout New England and Southern Canada. John and his unit have appeared in several documentary productions and have recently helped film a three-part documentary series focusing on the French and Indian War. In addition to participating in battle reenactments John helps bring history to the public through speaking engagements for local historic groups, schools, and children's groups. John serves as a member of the advisory committee in the effort to restore Fort Adams. He is also involved in the effort to save the Allen Madison House, a ca.1800 dwelling endangered by neglect that is located within the Quonset Point-Davisville Port and Commerce Park.

For the past two years, John has been involved with Smith's Castle's Plantation Days. John first participated in the event in 2000 and has sat on the Plantation Days Commit-



tee for the last two years. John and his fellow committee members, Diane McGowan and Becky Morgan, plan to build on the success of last year's event. With his election as a trustee John looks forward to applying his varied background and skills in helping Smith's Castle move into the twenty first century.

Christine Kalina, a former speech/language/hearing specialist, is a graduate of Southern Illinois University with a BS in communication disorders, and Northern Illinois University with an MS in speech pathology. She completed post-graduate work in linguistics at Northeastern Illinois University. Prior to joining Midwest Speech and Hearing Consultants in Chicago, she taught elementary school in the Chicago area. Chris decided to devote her energies to her children and became a full time Mom. Over the course of the next ten years and in four states, she served in her children's schools as a substitute teacher, media/library volunteer, and PTA officer. The Kalina family moved to Rhode Island for the first time in 1985 and made their first of many visits to Smith's Castle. In 1999, when the opportunity arose to return to the area they

Annual Meeting



Cathe Rezendes was born and raised in North Kingstown and is a URI graduate.

She, her husband, and two daughters, all Rhode Island natives, spent five years in California and Oregon. People she met were always curious about her home state and she always enjoyed explaining the beauty of the state and its rich heritage and contributions to history.

With a love of travel and visiting historical landmarks herself, it seemed natural to volunteer as a Smith's Castle docent when she returned to Rhode Island. She enjoys sharing the long and varied history of the Castle with visitors to our state and local schoolchildren as well.

A docent for five years, she shares her enthusiasm for the important role Rhode Island has played in our history. And as a board member, she will be a communication link for the 40 or so Smith's Castle docents.

Retiring Trustees and Officers Honored for Service

Cocumscussoc Association retiring officers and trustees were honored at the Annual Meeting. The following members were presented with an attractive paperweight commemorating their leadership roles and years of service: Richard M. Bowen, Jr., president 1999–2001; Doris Dion, trustee 1996–2001; Louise Duckworth, trustee 1996–2001; Linda Eppich, trustee and collections chair 1998–2001; Alex Fenik, vice president 2000–2001; William Ferrante, trustee 1996–2001; Mary Shillaber, treasurer 1999–2001, and Lee Williams, trustee, 1997–2001. ■

▼ **New Leadership.** The officers for 2002–2003 were elected at the annual meeting of the Association on January 25. They are (l. to r.) Russell Shippee, treasurer; Betty Fenik, secretary; Neil Dunay, vice-president; and Jan Breault, president.



The Smith and Updike Families

Richard Smith, Jr.'s Cloak. Seventeenth century. Made in England of wool and silk. Courtesy of the Rhode Island Historical Society (RHi X3 9280)



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OpDyck, a physician and landowner, had known the Smith family in New Amsterdam. The name OpDyck was anglicized to Updike. Lodowick married his first cousin, Richard Smith's niece Abigail Newton, the daughter of Thomas Newton and Richard Smith's youngest sister, Joan. They had seven children.²

Lodowick Updike brought prosperity to Smith's Castle in the early part of the 18th century. Ready money from trade of plantation products and sale of lands provided his wife and children with an elite lifestyle, comparable to that of the wealthy families in Newport and Providence. The children, including the five daughters, received an excellent education. The Updike boys were taught by French and English tutors in the country gentleman's manner of educating sons. Lodowick laid out the town of Wickford and sold lots there; he served as town assessor and was chosen "to lay out highways or roads in Kings Towne."³

Six Generations at Smith's Castle

Names in **Boldface** show the line of descent of ownership of Smith's Castle with birth and death dates and marriages.

Names not in boldface are other family members with their birthdates, when known.

Sources: Daniel B. Updike's *Richard Smith* (1937) and Charles Wilson Opdyke's *OpDyck Genealogy* (1889). Corrections and additional material from Dale A. Updike's *Updike Genealogy* (<http://world-connect.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db+updike>) and Carl Woodward's *Plantation in Yankeeland* (1971).

—Neil Dunay

1st Generation

Richard Smith
(1596–1666)
m. 1621
Joan Barton
(c.1600–bef. 1664)

2nd Generation

Richard Smith Jr.
(1630–1692)
m. aft. 1651
Esther [Smith?]
(?–c.1691)

Katheryne (1627)
m. Gysbert Opdyck

Joan (1624)
m. Thomas Newton

James (1629)

Elizabeth (1632)

3rd Generation

Lodowick Updike
(1646–1737)
m. ?
Abigail Newton
(c.1663–1745)

Colonel Daniel Updike, second son of Lodowick and Abigail, inherited the Castle and the bulk of the Smith/Updike holdings after his father's death in 1736. But distribution of land was already occurring, as Lodowick had given each of the five daughters a lot in Wickford plus farmland. Daniel was married in 1722 to the former Anstis Jenkins and brought his wife and family to the Castle from Newport after 1736. He practiced law in Newport, and he later served the Colony as Attorney General. Daniel improved farming practices, which are described in detail by Dr. James MacSparran in his diary for the Glebe, a smaller but similar operation.⁴ He also made extensive changes to the house during his occupancy, circa 1740; these are evident in how the Castle appears today.

The Daniel Updikes had four children, including twin sons who did not survive to adulthood. The only other son, named Lodowick for his grandfather, took over the Castle and plantation operations in 1757 following his father's death.

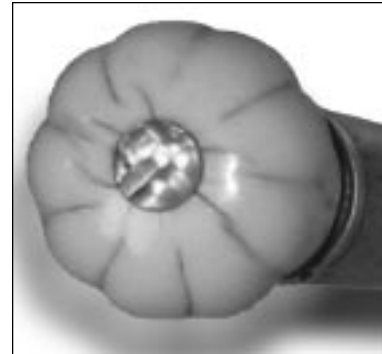
Educated by tutors like his father had been, he studied for the law but never practiced; instead he became a country gentleman. At the age of 35 in 1760, Lodowick married Abigail Gardiner, a daughter of another plantation owner, John Gardiner of Saundertown. Abigail and Lodowick had 11 children. They continued the Narragansett planters' renowned hospitality toward guests and travelers.

Lodowick and Abigail had little enthusiasm for the patriots' cause during the Revolutionary War. Trade patterns were disrupted, and there were no foreign markets for the plantations' products. During their occupation of Newport, British soldiers made raids of the livestock herds of the plantation. The eldest Updike son, Daniel, enlisted at an early age, even though his parents did not actively support the cause.

All the plantations were heavily taxed after the war, and most began to decline. The Updike holdings that included the Homestead Farm with Smith's Castle and four other

farms, were now down to 1500 acres. The estate was split further at Lodowick's death in 1804, when he willed each of his children portions of his properties. Abigail Updike lived at Smith's Castle until her death.

To Wilkins Updike, the youngest of the eleven children, was entrusted the running of the Homestead Farm and its now 50 acres of farmland. He remained with his mother at Smith's Castle and continued to practice law. He married Abigail Watson of South Kingstown in 1809 and, like his parents, the couple had 11 children. But the



Daniel Updike Walking Stick. The ebony walking stick, topped with a carved ivory knob inlaid with a mother-of-pearl disk, was used at Cocumcussoc by Daniel Updike around 1722. Donated in 1952 by Mr. Bowdin Updike McClintock of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. (1952.1.1) Photo by Ellie Perkins.

4th Generation

Daniel Updike
(1694–1757)
m. (2) 1722
Anstis Jenkins
(1702–bef. 1745)
Richard (1691)
Esther
Catharine
Abigail
Sarah
Martha

5th Generation

Lodowick Updike
(1725–1804)
m. 1760
Abigail Gardiner
(1740–1826)
Mary (1727)
Gilbert (1729)
Wilkins (1729)

6th Generation

Daniel (1761) James (1763)
Anstis (1765) Mary (1767)
Abigail (1769) Sarah (1771)
Lydia (1772) Lodowick (1774)
Alfred (1779) Gilbert (1781)
Wilkins Updike
(1784–1867)
m. 1809
Abigail Watson
(1792–1843)

The Smith and Updike Families



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plantation economy had suffered, and Wilkins found it difficult to find labor to work the fields and markets for the plantation's crops and livestock. Agriculture was declining as a major factor in the commerce of the Northeast.⁵

According to several sources, Wilkins sold the property in 1812 to erase a large business debt of one of his older brothers. Wilkins and Abigail moved to the village of Kingston, R.I., and the house that they built followed the familiar central-chimney plan of the Castle. The Kingston house remained in the family, and Updike descendants occupy the house today. Benjamin Congdon became the new owner of the Homestead Farm and the Castle. By the early 1800s, the plantation way of life had disappeared from Cocumscussoc and Rhode Island's South County. ■

Daniel Updike Waistcoat. The ca.1740 vest, with pocket flaps and a long skirt, is silk cut velvet and silk faille with velvet covered buttons. It would be worn over a shirt and breeches and be topped by a coat. Donated in 2001 by Clarkson Collins of Kingston. (2001.4.1.) Photo by Barbara Carey.

Footnotes

1. Maps by John Hutchins Cady illustrate the changing landscape of Rhode Island. See "Rhode Island Boundaries, 1636–1936," *Rhode Island History*, Vol 56, No. 4.

2. Smith/Updike family genealogical chart on page 22 of Carl Woodward's *Plantation in Yankeeeland*, published by Cocumscussoc Association of Wickford, R.I., 1971.

3. *Rhode Island Colonial Records III*, 480 as quoted in Charles Wilson Opdyke's *The Opdyck Genealogy*, Weed, Parson & Co., Albany, N.Y., 1889, p. 90.

4. See Daniel Goodwin's annotated transcription of MacSparran's *Letter Book and Abstract of Out Services*, published by D.B. Updike's Merry-mount Press in 1899; for excerpts see Chapter VI, "Fruitful Fields," in Woodward's *Plantation in Yankeeeland*.

5. See Chapter VIII, "Low Water" in Woodward's *Plantation in Yankeeeland*.

Scouts Complete Castle Walkway Restoration

My recently completed Eagle Project at Smith's Castle consisted of a renovation of the gravel walkways around the Castle. The walkways had, by the end of last summer, fallen into a rather poor state. With the aid of my troop, I removed worn and chipped brick edging and distributed 11 tons of gravel over the paths. This work took 25 of us a good two weekends of work. The gravel was kindly donated and delivered by Dry Bridge Stone and Gravel, who I would like to thank. I would also like to thank the Castle for the opportunity to do such rewarding work, and a special thanks to Dick Breault and Barbara Carey who helped me coordinate the project with the Castle. It is with great pleasure that I can announce that the new walkways look great and should last for years to come. ■

—Gregory Nannig



Castle Walkways receive a much needed upgrade by members of Scout Troop 152. Their work was coordinated by Gregory Nannig, second from right.

Calling all members!

The Long Range Site and Building Development Committee is looking for photos, maps, memorabilia, letters, documents, oral histories, and other related items that could further our understanding and knowledge of the Castle site through its long history. If you know of any older relatives, friends, or neighbors that worked or visited the Castle during the Cocumscussoc Dairy days in the early third of the 20th century we would love to talk to you! We are also interested in gathering any information you may have, or know of, about descendants of the following families (the past owners of Smith's Castle and Cocumscussoc)

Smith
Updike
Benjamin Congdon
Thomas R. Rathbun
Aldridge B. Gardiner
Walter B. and Fannie V. Chapin
Mrs. Henry A. Babbitt
Alice H. Fox
Austin G. Fox
Austin H. Fox and Alice Fox Gerster
Vesta Underwear Company
John Lawson

Call Barbara Carey at the office if you have information for us. We would be happy to pick up anything or meet with anyone who is unable to get to us. We are especially interested in possible candidates for oral histories of the Cocumscussoc Dairy period.

—Mary Turkel



The Castle Youth Historians, formerly the Junior Docents, are beginning individual studies in the following areas: crewel embroidery, weaving, architecture and house building, lace making, and plant dyes. They would appreciate help. Do you know an expert, a collection, or a good book? Call Diane Long, 295-8584.

Recent Events

Docents and Friends Start the Year with New Leaders

On February 7, the Docents and Friends of Smith's Castle held their first meeting of 2002. In November 2001, the members voted the following people into office, beginning in February 2002: Janice Brown and Nancy Sprague, co-chairpersons; Robert Hocking, recording secretary; Eunice Pratt, timekeeper; and Cathe Rezendes, docent representative on the Board of Trustees.

Retiring from their posts were Joyce Fuller as co-chairperson and Shirley Burnham as recording secretary. The Docents and Friends sincerely thank Joyce and Shirley for their untiring dedication and contributions. ■

—Janice Brown and Nancy Sprague

Hearth Cooking Collection Expands

Thanks to the Colonial War grant and Bill Montcrieff's sharp eye, we have added two fine pieces to our hearth cooking collection. The first, a ca. 1800 footed griddle has a wrought iron handle with a hanging ring. The diameter of the griddle is 13 inches, excluding the ears through which the handle is attached. The height is 15 inches from the tip of the feet to the top of the hanging ring. It has an elongated gate casting mark on the bottom and an extremely smooth cooking surface. It is in excellent condition.

Our second find is a pair of early cannonball fireplace andirons with rounded, "penny" feet. They stand 20 inches tall and are 20 inches deep. Spit hooks across the front, used to cradle a skewer bar for roasting meats, make this pair particularly useful. With a dripping pan, we'll be ready to start roasting! ■

—Sally Marinelli

IRS Provides Mileage Benefit for Volunteers

With tax time around the bend, it pays to keep track of volunteer work at the Castle. While time put in isn't tax deductible, mileage to and from the Castle is!

If you itemize, you can deduct 14 cents per mile traveled. That might not sound like much, but I was surprised to discover that, because I live 11 miles away in West Kingston, for the 34 roundtrips I made to the Castle in 2001, I can deduct \$104.72. Hey, every little bit helps! ■

—Sally Marinelli

Recent Events

Packed Audience Takes War Journey With Tougias

A standingroom only audience of 120 heard Michael Tougias, author of 12 books about New England and co-author with Eric Schulz of *King Philip's War: The History and Legacy of America's Forgotten Conflict* (The Countryman Press, 1999) speak at the North Kingstown Free library on Saturday afternoon, February 2.

The slide lecture, co-sponsored by the Cocumscussoc Association and the Friends of the Library, made vivid once again the tough times endured by the early settlers and Native people. In 1621, the Indian Chief Massasoit was an honored guest at the celebration of the Pilgrim's first Thanksgiving. Fifty-five years later in 1676, colonial soldiers walked through Plymouth with his son Philip's head on a stake. Young King Philip (Metacom), sachem of the Pokanoket sub-tribe of Wampanoags, was killed near Mt. Hope in Bristol. His brother Alexander (Wamsutta) died earlier under mysterious circumstances. Philip's wife and son were sold into slavery.

King Philip's War, which lasted about two years, began with a confrontation near Plymouth between the Wampanoag Indians and the English. Many English settlements in Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island were burned. Smith's Castle and the Richard Smith family had a role in the conflict, the effects of which continue to the present.

In 1622, Massasoit had negotiated a treaty with the colonists that guaranteed the security necessary to establish their settlements. In return the Wampanoags secured an ally against their enemy, the Narragansetts. Initially the treaty worked because both sides were weak. The Pilgrims were far from home with little help to depend on, and the Wampanoags had been



devastated by European diseases in the years before the Pilgrims came. One historian has estimated that New England's native population had declined from 90,000 in 1600 to 10,750 in 1675. Peace was also supported by trade. Indians wanted European manufactured goods, and Europeans wanted furs.

While disease, trade, firearms, religion, and alcohol were all elements in the English-Native American relationship, New England Indians were also victims of colonial America's appetite for territory and expansion. Many of the Englishmen who participated in King Philip's War were involved in the acquisition and development of land.

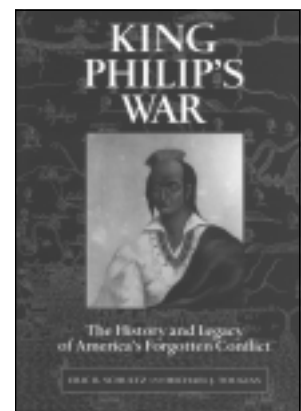
On December 19, 1675, troops from the United Colonies (Plymouth, Massachusetts Bay, and Connecticut) left Smith's Castle, where they were bivouacked, to march on the Narragansett stronghold in the Great Swamp. The weather was frigid, which proved to be an advantage for

the colonists. It was possible to walk on ice through the swamp to the Indian encampment, where they fell upon the inhabitants, burning the village, destroying their winter food supply, and killing women, children, and elderly. This was the single bloodiest day of the War. Forty dead colonists were later buried in a common grave at Cocumscussoc. The Narragansett retaliated by burning Smith's blockhouse and other neighboring houses, but their strength was broken.

During King Philip's War, the English suffered as many as eight hundred deaths and countless homes were destroyed, but the Native Americans suffered even greater losses. Devastated by disease and famine, the Native people of southern New England were removed from their ancestral homelands with thousands slain or sold into slavery.

Tougias showed slides of many sites in New England, including the Gilbert Stuart gristmill, Smith's Castle, and the monument at the scene of the Great Swamp Fight. Combining history and travelogue, he mentioned places to visit today which were important in the time of King Philip and the colonists. ■

—Shirley Payne



Upcoming Events

Roger Williams and May Pole Dancing To Open the Season

The Castle opens its doors for the season on Saturday, May 4, from noon to 4:00 pm with a variety of interesting activities.

Come and chat with Roger Williams, a.k.a. David Ely, educator and actor, who will stroll the grounds portraying Williams. He will offer insight into the character and thinking of this famous man through his conversations with visitors. The Association thanks Cathe Rezendes for her sponsorship of this portrayal.

The Musicians of *Updikes' Rose*, regular performers at the Castle, return with their beautiful music, dance, and costumes. They will perform the colorful May Pole pageant.

Everyone is invited to join in.

Visit the garden and identify plant specimens with our beautiful garden brochure. This can be a fun family activity. The garden is splendid with color in the spring.

Docents will provide regular guided tours. If you haven't visited the house in a while, this is a good chance to refresh your memory. It's also a great time to introduce someone new to our treasure here on Mill Cove.

In lieu of admission, all visitors are asked to bring a non-perishable grocery item to be donated to the North Kingstown Food Pantry. For more information, call 294-3521. ■

Mark Your Calendar

Note:
Ella Sekatau Lecture
March 16, 2002
CANCELLED

Clean-Up Days
Saturday, April 6 & 7, 9 am to 3 pm

Docent Training (7 sessions)
Begins Thursday, April 11
see Annex Window, p.2 for details

Opening Day
Saturday, May 4, noon to 4 pm

Strawberry Festival and Gifts from the Garden
Saturday, June 8, , noon to 4 pm
Sunday, June 9, rain date

The *Chronicle* has been notified of the death of Castle member John Lawrence Chapman. On behalf of the membership, we extend sincere sympathy to his family.

Smith's Castle gratefully acknowledges the support of its business members—



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Hearty Pats on the Back to...

Dick Bowen and **Darrell McIntire** whose combined volunteer hours for 2001 exceeded 1,100! There aren't words to properly express gratitude for this tremendous effort.

Our retiring officers and trustees, **Dick Bowen, Al Fenik, Mary Shillaber, Doris Dion, Louise Duckworth, Linda Epich, Bill Ferrante, and Lee Williams** for a fine legacy of service. Thank you.

Michael and Sarah Beatrice for support of the meeting room exhibit with a gift of \$1000, which is matched by a contribution of \$500 from Michael's employer, Home Depot. This philanthropy is exemplary and sincerely appreciated and, along with all contributions, will be acknowledged on a special exhibit panel.

Neil Dunay for completing the library catalogue. Now each book has an acid-free book slip and both title and

author catalogue entries. The books are reshelfed in proper order.

Dick Breault for supervising the grounds in 2001 and for planting our live Christmas tree on the side lawn.

Bob Shillaber for loving care of the Annex all year long.

Liisa Hallberg for building and finishing our visitor feedback box. Look for it when you come on opening day. You are a great carpenter, Liisa.

Volunteers who contributed to the Christmas at the Castle open house and holiday party fundraiser, which netted \$2430.23 for a new entry sign.

Karla and Bob Driscoll for donating ceramic luminaries. Everyone enjoyed the lovely lighted path. Look for them again next year.

Nancy Birch for securing the first-ever live Christmas tree from **Schartner**

Farms, who is always supportive of Castle programs. Thank you both for this fresh holiday touch. Also, to **Nancy** for teaching the South Kingstown Recreation Department December wreath making class at the Castle. Student feedback was "straight A."

Ellie and Bruce Ferguson for donating toaster ovens. What a help in our tiny kitchen!

Dick Bowen, Al Fenik, and Bob Shillaber for winterizing the Castle. We know this is hard work.

Les Flood for donating a copy of the 1974 North Kingstown tercentenary edition of the *Standard Times*, which included Castle coverage.

Friends of the North Kingstown Free Library for sponsoring the Michael Tougias lecture and to **Susan Berman**, library Assistant for Adult Services, for coordinating the event.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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