

Castle Chronicle

Volume 11 Number 2 ■ Summer 2002

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Beriah Brown, High Sheriff of Washington County and Smith Descendant

Neil G. Dunay

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Thank-Yous

In the Castle's Eighteenth Century Bed Chamber, between the two front windows and below the portrait of Phoebe Congdon, sits an elegant 18th-century slant-front desk (Fig. 1). This was the desk of Beriah Brown, the High Sheriff of Washington County.

Beriah Brown was born January 16, 1714/5, the son of Alexander and Honour (Huling) Brown. He first married Elizabeth Smith and second, in 1771, Elizabeth Babcock (1725–1815), daughter of George and Susannah Babcock.¹ By his first wife, he had three sons and three daughters.²

Although he may never have been aware of it, Beriah Brown was descended from Richard Smith through a maternal line. He was Wilkins Updike's third cousin; they both descended from Richard Smith through his daughter Katheryne's marriage to Gysbert Opdyck in 1643. For this reason, it is entirely appropriate that his desk should come to reside at Smith's Castle.

Beriah Brown was first elected sheriff of Washington County in 1746, and held the position for 38 of 46 years until his death in 1792.³ He was involved in two prominent capital cases, one at the beginning and one near the end of his career.

On the road below Tower Hill on midnight, January 1, 1751, Thomas Carter of Newport stabbed and killed William Jackson of Virginia for his money.⁴ At the time, Brown was not yet sheriff and not responsible for apprehending Carter, but he entered office soon after to preside over the May 10 execution. The Rev. James McSparran, a frequent visitor to the Updike house, delivered a lengthy sermon at the execution

based on the quote from *Saint Matthew V, 21*, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time thou shalt not kill." Carter was one of the last in Rhode Island to be "hanged in chains"—that is, hanged, then the body mounted in chains or irons and kept on display as a warning to others. Thomas R. Hazard (1797–1886) wrote that Carter was "hanged in gibbets, where the body remained until it dropped piecemeal from the irons to the ground beneath, where I have heard say the soil and verdure

were for years after made rank and dark with blood."⁵ Beriah Brown paid John DeGrand, the executioner, 50 pounds for his services.⁶

Sheriff Brown presided over another murderer's execution at the end of his career, that of Thomas Mount in 1791. Most of Brown's duties, however, were much less dramatic but nonetheless critical to those he served.

Beriah Brown died on July 8, 1792 at the age of 77. His desk is not mentioned specifically in either

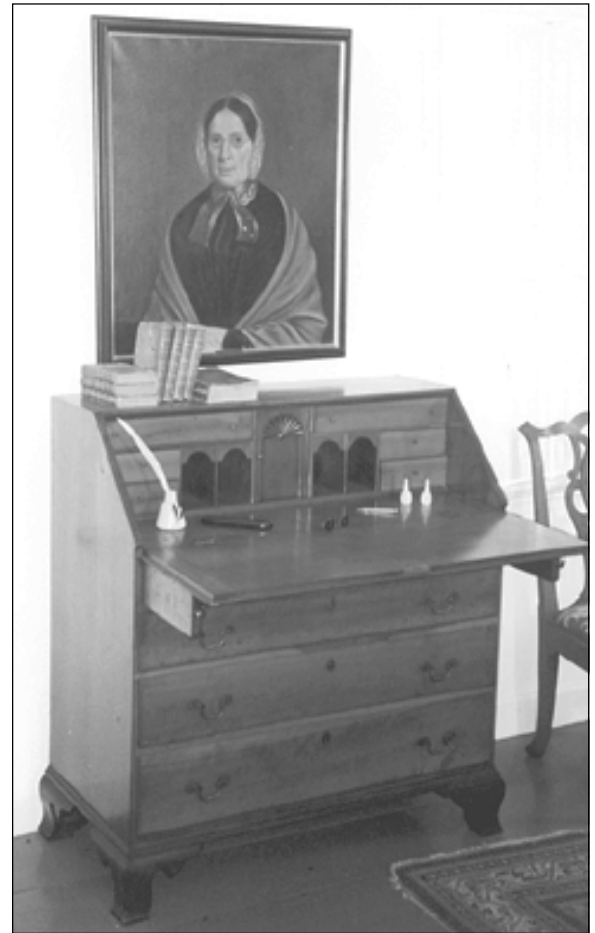


Figure 1. Beriah Brown's desk sits below the portrait of Phoebe Congdon, both donated to Smith's Castle by Mrs. Ralph Sommerville in 1964.

his will or the inventory of his estate. In his will, he gives to his wife Elizabeth "all the household furniture that she brought me when I married her with two cows and the use of the best Rooms in my house where I now live."⁷ The desk may have been part of Elizabeth Brown's inheritance; a receipt in the Beriah Brown papers at the Rhode Island Historical Society (RIHS) archives, signed by Elizabeth Brown and

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The viewpoints expressed by contributors to *Castle Chronicle* are not necessarily those of the Cocumscussoc Association.

Note from the President

Spring! The time had come to bring the Castle to life after its winter rest. The house resisted a little with a minor flood at the kitchen sink, but that was quickly fixed. Then it was filled with a scurry of dustmops, feather dusters, brooms, and vacs. The smell of Windex mixed with the fragrance of coffee and Allie's donuts. Valued artifacts were returned to their places and the gift shop was cleaned and restocked.

By noon, lunch of hot soup was welcomed on the cold windy day. Conversation and cookies were shared as volunteers relaxed before joining the grounds crew. The rail fence was rebuilt, two sugar maples planted, and walkways made ready for foot traffic and wheel chairs. The Master Gardeners worked their magic and our master stick picker-uppers cleared away the tree debris.

At the end of the weekend, I'm sure the Smith, Updike, Congdon, Rathburn, Babbit, and Fox families looked down upon their home with pride. Thank you to all the volunteers who gave of their time for this important effort.

—Jan Breault

From the Annex Window

In support of the association mission of education for all ages, the *Castle Chronicle* has moved toward more in-depth reporting to avail our readers of relevant work being done by both professional and amateur researchers. We've heard positive feedback from many of our readers who have enjoyed the deeper study provided by these recent articles.

The Chronicle staff has also decided to close this column, the Annex Window. The Note from the President and Annex Window will merge as a single column to communicate messages from the association leadership.

It is increasingly difficult for our *Chronicle*, published quarterly and covering a wide variety of topics, to be the primary vehicle for promotion of our jam-packed schedule of exciting Castle events, activities, and volunteer needs and opportunities.

As we strive to provide more efficient, cost-conscious, and effective means of keeping you informed, we plan to update you on time-sensitive notices in other ways, such as news flyers. We will experiment with this new method, and, as always, we like feedback and ideas on what works best for you.

—Barbara Carey

Welcome New Members

Neil Alpert
Marge Bartlett
Mr. and Mrs. Jules Cohen
Mary Cooney
Cross Mills Public Library
Darlene W. Downie
Donald Leonard
David Lima
Charles and Ellie Lupo
Meghan McKay
Michael and Lisa McMahon
Jack S. Selvaggio
Robert and Suzanne Terry
Mary Tilley
Kristen Waddell
Mr. and Mrs. Wilson

—as of 5/13/02

Members Out and About

Congratulations to all North Kingstown High School students and Smith's Castle members who took honors in this year's National History Day Competition.

Group Media 3rd Place: Jade Nanning: "Olympics: American Women"

Paper 1st Place: Rebecca Long: "Reel Women: How Film Reflects Women's Changing Place in Society"

Group Exhibit 1st Place: Katie Kalina: "The First Amendment"

Individual Exhibit Honorable Mention: Rachel Lefebure: "20th Century Protest Songs"

Katie Kalina and Rebecca Long competed at the State Competition on April 27 at Providence College.

Rebecca Long will go to the national competition in Washington, D.C.

National History Day (NHD) engages students in the process of discovery and interpretation of historic topics. Students produce dramatic performances, imaginative exhibits, multimedia documentaries, and research papers related to an annual theme. The projects are then evaluated at local, state, and national competitions. NHD is supported by a range of museums and research facilities across America. This year's theme was *Revolution, Reaction, and Reform in History*. For more information, go to <http://nationalhistoryday.org>

At the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Conference in April, Mary Turkel and Bob Major of the Pres-

—continued on page 3

Committee News

Membership Grows with Your Support

As membership coordinators, we believe that a large, strong membership is the cornerstone in the health and prosperity of Smith's Castle and that the most reliable source for building new memberships is word-of-mouth from current members. We hope to count on each of our current members to help us get the word out to friends, family, and community about what a jewel we have in the Castle.

We ask all of you to take a moment and review your club lists, your address book, your Christmas card lists, your email partners, your business associates, your tennis partners, your golf buddies, your employees, your crew, your neighbors. We're sure you'll find twelve friends (and addresses) who might like to join Smith's Castle. Just email us (CathyShippee@lighthousepartnersllc.com or eferguson@ids.net) with this information or send it to the Castle office. We'll do the rest!

Also, our Gift Membership program has been extended through 2002 by popular demand! Please consider this thoughtful gift for your friends and family. Membership in a historic museum does wonders for your sense of patriotism! ■

—Ellie Ferguson and Cathy Shippee
Membership Coordinators

continued from page 2

ervation Cooperative were part of a team honored with a stewardship award for the restoration of the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House in Newport. Architect Jack Renshaw received recognition for his work on the Dunes Club Gatehouse in Narragansett, which won a preservation project award. ■

Smith's Castle and Forest Park Elementary Create a "Lively Experiment"

Building on last year's collaborative program, this joint venture continues to grow.

The year began with a school visit by Barbara Carey, Chris Kalina, and Strongwoman of the Wampanoag Tribe. Third grade students stepped into the history of their community by examining and analyzing primary source documents. Some learned about Richard Smith, Jr. through careful study of his Inventory of 1692. Others examined a Wampanoag wampum belt and learned about its traditions.

In May, they visited the Castle to investigate and examine sections of the building and its artifacts, the grounds, and a tipi on the cove.

In June, the students will don historic-style clothing and assume the roles of colonial and Native American children and "live the life" of the early inhabitants of Cocumscussoc. They will experience the culture of the mid-1600s and the relationship between the early settlers and the Native Americans through interactive interpretive programming.

The project has also provided professional development opportunities for participating teachers and Smith's Castle staff through a day long session with Susan Diachisin, Manager of Interpretive Programs, DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, Mass.

Robert Vincze, Forest Park Elementary Principal, has given inspiration and guidance for the development of this exciting program. Funding support has been provided through the North Kingstown Business Education Partnership, Inc. and the Rhode Island Foundation. ■

—Christine Kalina
Education Chairperson



Strongwoman and students examine trees to determine their identity.



Docent Chris Kalina surveys site with students.



Students note research findings in journals.

Library Policy Set, Books Remain Missing

The library at the Castle is being catalogued. At this stage, all but the newly acquired books and some books in the Annex Office have been catalogued and have been repositioned in the library.

There are two sections of books: circulating and noncirculating. Circulating books are available for loan to any Association member. Some books have been designated as noncirculating, either because they are frequently used for reference or because they would be difficult to replace if lost. They are separated from the circulating books, and NONCIRC appears at the top of the bookslip. These books are only for research conducted in the Castle library and should not leave the grounds under any circumstances.

To locate a book, use the green card file. The file contains cards for each book, arranged in three different orders for ease of use: alphabetically by author, alphabetically by title, and numerically by Dewey decimal (which roughly approximates a subject order). Books are arranged on the shelves by the Dewey number. The bulk of our collection relates to New England and Colonial History.

Borrowing Policies

Only current dues-paying members may borrow books. The loan period for circulating books is four weeks, no renewals. To borrow a circulating book,

- Remove the bookmark that is slipped between the book's pages.
- Write your name legibly under "Borrower Name" and the date.
- Place the bookslip in the "Borrower Record Folder" designated for borrowed books.
- Jot a note to yourself of the due date—four weeks from the date of borrowing.
- Noncirculating books shall not leave the Castle library.

- Please keep the library tidy, the slips in the correct books, and the volumes in order. We do not have a librarian!

Missing Books

Through the cataloguing process, we have discovered that a number of books have not been returned. We ask all members and their families to search your bookshelves to see if you have any of the Castle's books. They usually can be identified by a stamp "Smith's Castle Library Wickford RI 02852" on the front free endpaper. A small white, rectangular, hand-numbered sticker on the spine may also be a clue. Should you find a Castle book, please drop it off at the Castle office. This can be done anonymously, no questions asked.

The following books are missing from the collection:

Early American school books. 1988.

Atwater, Mary Meigs. *The shuttle-craft book of American hand-weaving.* 1931.

Bourne, Russell. *The Red King's rebellion: racial politics in New England, 1675–1678.* 1990.

Church, Benjamin, 1639–1718. *Diary of King Philip's War, 1675–76.* 1975.

Clauson, James Earl, 1873–1937. *These Plantations.* 1937.

Codman, John. *Preservation of historic districts by architectural control.* 1956.

Conley, Patrick T. *North Kingstown: an historical sketch.* 1976.

Deetz, James. *In small things forgotten: the archaeology of early American life.* 1977.

Dolan, J. R. *The Yankee peddlers of early America.* 1964.

Doten, Dana. *The art of bundling.* 1938.

Downing, Antoinette Forrester. *Early homes of Rhode Island.* 1937.

Earle, Alice Morse, 1851–1911. *In old Narragansett; romances and realities.* 1898.

Earle, Alice Morse, 1851–1911. *Two centuries of costume in America, 1620–1820.* 1971.

Federico, Jean Taylor. *Clues to American furniture.* 1988.

Greene, Welcome Arnold. *The Providence Plantations for two hundred and fifty years.* 1886.

Hawke, David Freeman. *Everyday life in early America.* 1988.

Hogrefe, Jeffrey, ed. *The Antiques world price guide to over 40,000 antiques and collectibles.* 1982.

Kamm, Minnie Elizabeth (Watson) 1886–1954. *Old-time herbs for northern gardens.* 1971.

Leach, Douglas Edward. *Flintlock and tomahawk; New England in King Philip's War.* 1958.

McLoughlin, William Gerald. *Rhode Island: a bicentennial history.* 1978.

McPartland, Martha R. *The history of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, 1677–1960.* 1960.

Miller, Charles Thurber, 1830–1876. *Settlement of Rhode Island.* 1874.

Pyle, Katharine, ?–1938. *Once upon a time in Rhode Island.* 1914.

Sanford, S.N.F. *New England herbs.* 1937.

Simister, Florence Parker. *Streets of the city: an anecdotal history of North Kingstown.* 1974.

Simmons, William Scranton. *Spirit of the New England tribes: Indian history and folklore, 1620–1984.* 1986.

Small, Stephen J. *Preserving family lands: a landowner's introduction to tax issues and other considerations.* 1988.

Urdike, Daniel Berkeley. *Richard Smith, first English settler of the Narragansett country.* 1937.

Urdike, Wilkins. *History of the Episcopal church in Narragansett, Rhode Island. vol. III.* 1907.

Watson, W.L. *Rhode Island Indian corn meal.* 1977.

Williams, Roger, 1604?–1683. *A key into the language of America.* 1936.

Winchester, Alice. *How to know American antiques.* 1951.

Wry, Dr. Ora E. *South County museum adventure.* 1991.

New Books

We have been fortunate to receive some important volumes for our library. Dr. Robert K. Fitts has donated his collection of Rhode Island and South County books to the Cocumscussoc Association. Dr. Fitts is the author of *Inventing New England's Slave Paradise: Master/Slave Relations in Eighteenth-Century Narragansett, Rhode Island* (Garland, 1998), a work that has increased tremendously our understanding of slavery at Cocumscussoc (see *Castle Chronicle*, Summer 2001). We are greatly appreciative to Dr. Fitts for his generosity.

The Fitts' collection includes the following volumes:

Bridenbaugh, Carl. *Fat mutton and liberty of conscience: society in Rhode Island, 1636-1690*. 1974.

Carpenter, Esther Bernon, 1848-1943. *South County studies of some eighteenth century persons places and conditions in that portion of Rhode Island called Narragansett*. 1924.

Cottrol, Robert J. *The Afro-Yankees: Providence's Black community in the ante-bellum era*. 1982.

Coughtry, Jay. *The notorious triangle: Rhode Island and the African slave trade, 1700-1807*. 1981.

Daniels, Bruce Colin. *Dissent and conformity on Narragansett Bay: The colonial Rhode Island town*. 1983.

Fish, Joseph, 1706-1781. *Old light on separate ways: the Narragansett diary of Joseph Fish, 1765-1776*. 1982.

Greene, Emily. *The Cocumscussoc primer*. 1976.

Hazard, Caroline, 1856-1945. *Thomas Hazard son of Robt call'd College Tom: A study of life in Narragansett in the 18th century*. 1893.

Hazard, Thomas Robinson, 1797-1886. *The Jonny-cake papers of "Shepherd Tom;" together with reminiscences of Narragansett schools of former days*. 1915.

James, Sydney V. 1929-1993. *Colonial Rhode Island: A history*. 1975.

Turning Pages to the Past: New Book Discussion Group to Meet

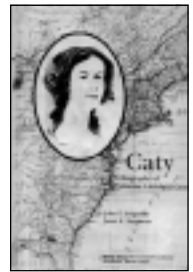
Join the Adult-Education-sponsored quarterly book discussions focusing on historic topics of fiction and nonfiction. Participants can join in for one or more books in the discussion series. No time to read, but want to listen to the discussions? You are invited as well.

7:00 pm, Tuesday, June 18, 2002: *Caty: A Biography of Catherine Littlefield Greene* by John F. Stegeman. Caty, wife of the Revolutionary War general Nathaniel Greene, was born on Block Island and raised in East Greenwich. This is the story of her extraordinary life and her observations of the times. It's a page-turner and will change your opinions of 18th century women!

7:00 pm, Friday, September 20, 2002: *Until I Have No Country* by Michael J. Tougias. This fast reading historic fiction about King Philip's War in New England draws the reader into the unique tale of the war's causes and personal sacrifices. Edith Andrews, member of the Wampanoag Tribe and former Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts says, "Tougias has captured the essence of the Native American. He is to be congratulated for his insight while taking readers back into history."

Sessions are free and open to the public. Group sizes are limited. Call 294-3521 for registration and information on dates and other books in the discussion series.

—Carol Bozarth



MacSparran, James, 1693-1757. *A Letter book and abstract of out services written during the years 1743-1751*. 1899.

McAleer, Althea H. *Graveyards of North Kingstown, Rhode Island*. 1992.

McBurney, Christian M. *The Rise and decline of the South Kingstown planters, 1660-1783*. 1981.

Pettaquamscutt Historical Society. *Cemeteries in South Kingstown*. 1979.

Pettaquamscutt Historical Society. *Historical buildings of South County*. 1973.

Potter, Elisha Reynolds, Jr. 1811-1882. *Early history of Narragansett: with an appendix of original documents...* 1835.

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission. *Historic and architectural resources of Charlestown, Rhode Island*. 1981.

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission. *Historic and architectural re-*

sources of Narragansett, Rhode Island. 1981.

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission. *Historic and architectural resources of South Kingstown, Rhode Island*. A preliminary report. 1984.

Robinson, Paul Alden. *The Struggle within: the Indian debate in seventeenth-century Narragansett country*. 1990.

Stutz, Jean C. *South Kingstown, Rhode Island, town council records, 1771-1795*. 1988.

Updike, Wilkins, 1764-1867. *History of the Episcopal church in Narragansett, Rhode Island*. 1847.

Updike, Wilkins, 1764-1867. *Memoirs of the Rhode Island bar*. 1842.

White, Hunter C. *Wickford and its old houses: A report to the Main Street Association of Wickford, based on the records of the Town of North Kingstown*. 1960. ■

Beriah Brown



Figure 2



Figure 3

Figure 2. Beriah Brown House, ca.1938, at its North Kingstown location, on route 2 near route 102. Photo donated by Mrs. Ralph Sommerville.

Figure 3. Beriah Brown House, 2002, at Mill Street, Newport. The house has sprouted attic window dormers and lost the front stoop, but has otherwise changed little on the exterior. Photo by the author.

dated April 8, 1793, notes “Then received of Beriah Waite & Beriah Brown Junr the Executors of the Last Will and Testament of Beriah Brown Esqr Late Deceased Two cows one mare and Rideing Chare Together with all and every matter of household furniture Given me by my Late Husband Beriah Brown Esqr.”⁸

When one sees the boxes at the RIHS containing a vast number of Brown’s papers, it is easy to imagine the Sheriff writing at his desk, stuffing communications in the pigeon holes, or filing important documents in its drawers.

Beriah Brown’s desk [1964.1.2] was donated to Smith’s Castle by Mrs. Ralph Sommerville of Portland, Maine, in 1964. Research for this article yielded no clues as to how Mrs. Sommerville was related to Beriah Brown, and the RIHS, which also has Beriah Brown items donated by Mrs. Sommerville, has no further information about their provenance.

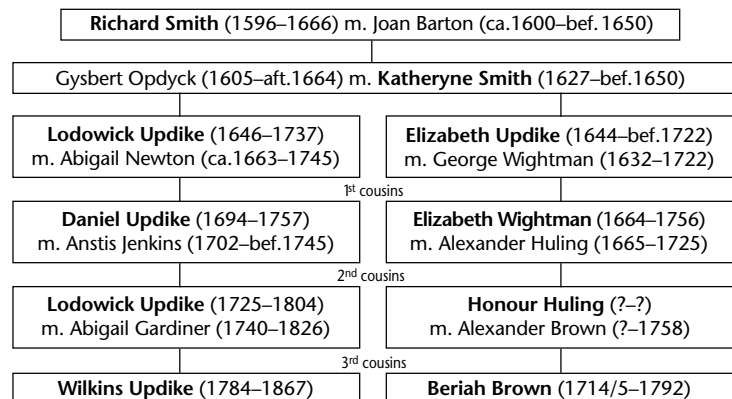
Collections Committee records describe the desk as a “Rhode Island Fall-Front Desk” made of cherry wood and chestnut. It has ogee bracketed feet and four graduated drawers with bail brasses and key holes. The cabinet work has a shell-carved blocked door in the center flanked by two pigeon holes with

two small drawers under a single top drawer. The desk stands 43 inches high and is 39 inches deep. The piece is in good condition except for a replaced right rear leg.

Mrs. Sommerville also donated a photograph of Beriah Brown’s house as it stood in North Kingstown about 1938 [1964.1.3] (Fig.2). The Brown house was located on the west side of Route 2, just north of the intersection with Route 102 (approximately across from the Gregg’s Restaurant). Like most

homes of the period, it no doubt faced south. The house was built before 1709 by Beriah Brown’s grandfather of the same name, and the cellar is said to have contained cells and barred windows that the sheriff used for prisoners.⁹ Threatened with demolition in the late 1960s, the structure was dismantled and rebuilt in Newport in 1972, thanks to the foresight of Doris Duke’s Newport Restoration Foundation. The house now sits near Trinity Church, facing west toward its former home (Fig. 3). ■

Beriah Brown’s Relationship to the Smith-Updike Family



Names in bold are direct blood lines to Richard Smith.

Source: Lineages and dates assembled from various family datasheets in John O. Austin’s, *Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1969) and Charles Wilson Opdyke’s *The Op Dyck Genealogy* (Albany: Weed Parsons, 1889).

References

¹ See Alden G. Beaman, "The Family of Alexander Brown of Kingstowne," *Rhode Island Genealogical Register*, 11:233-235.

² Althea H. McAleer, et al., *Graveyards of North Kingstown, Rhode Island* (North Kingstown, privately published, 1992), Lot 96: [np].

³ Christopher Bickford, "Washington County Sheriffs and Jailers, 1790-1956" (unpublished manuscript for Pettaquamscutt Historical Society exhibition, 2002).

⁴ Federal Writers' Project, *Rhode Island: A Guide to the Smallest State* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1937) 332.

⁵ Thomas Robinson Hazard, *The Jonny-Cake Papers of "Shepherd Tom"* (Boston: Merrymount Press, 1915) 180.

⁶ "Selections from the Sheriff Beriah Brown Papers," *The Narragansett Historical Register*, 1(1882-1883) 215.

⁷ Will of Beriah Brown, dated June [?], 1789, proved 11 July 1792, North Kingstown Probate Records 12:156-161.

⁸ *Beriah Brown Papers*, Rhode Island Historical Society Manuscript Division, Box 6, Folder 7.

⁹ C. Hunter White, *Wickford and Its Old Houses; North Kingstown, Its Houses and Sites* (Wickford, Main Street Association, May 1960), 74. See also Antoinette Downing, *Early Homes of Rhode Island* (Richmond, Virginia: Garrett & Massie, 1937), 85; a drawing of a mantel in the house appears on page 93.

Death of Beriah Brown Provokes Law Enforcement Crisis In South County

On July 10, 1792 Tom Hazard noted in his diary that "old Briah [sic] Brown died night before last." A week later the *Newport Gazette* included a brief obituary: "At North Kingstown, in an advanced Age, Beriah Brown, Esq. for many years sheriff of the County of Washington—A Gentleman highly and deservedly respected."

With no provision in the Rhode Island legal system for deputy sheriffs to continue to act on the instructions of the judiciary, Brown's death caused an unexpected crisis in the state. Governor Arthur Fenner, concerned that representatives would be reluctant to leave their farms during peak harvesting, was nonetheless forced to call the legislature into special session as quickly as possible.

In addressing the legislature on August 9, Fenner praised Beriah Brown as a man "who discharged the duties of an important office with fidelity, sustaining the best of characters, that of an honest man, and of a worthy citizen." Few individuals, he said, were more generally approved; few had served so long and so repeatedly. Fenner pleaded with the legislature to take action.

The course of justice itself in Washington County had been interrupted because deputy sheriffs lacked all authority to act. The legislature responded to the governor's appeal by electing Nicholas Gardner, Jr. the new sheriff for Washington County and by passing a law affirming the authority of deputy sheriffs, following the death or resignation of sheriffs. The critical role of the sheriff in executing judicial decisions was never more clearly demonstrated.

—Christopher Bickford
Pettaquamscutt Historical Society

The Pettaquamscutt Historical Society has mounted an exhibition: "Crime, Punishment and the Washington County Jail," running May 11, 2002 through September 30, 2002. Hours are 1-4 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Expected artifacts on display will include Beriah Brown's purse and watch, as well as a facsimile of the warrant for the execution of Thomas Mount in 1791.



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401-295-1915 1-800-281-3162
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Tuesday & Thursday 9am - 9pm; Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 9am - 5:30 pm
Sunday 12pm - 4pm; Closed Monday

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

In-Depth Castle Tours Focus Eyes on the Past, Members' Expertise

The Adult Education Committee has developed *With an Eye to the Past*, a tour series designed to entice visitors to return for in-depth presentations of the house and its history.

These 45-minute tours are open to the public. The charge is \$5 per person, members free. Call 401-294-3521 to register. Group size is limited. Presenters are members with special expertise in their chosen topic.

1:30 pm, Sunday, June 23.

Eat Your Way through the 17th and 18th Centuries. Consider food preparation without refrigeration, running water, or a microwave. Learn about food and dining customs of the period.

7:00 pm, Thursday, June 27.

Threads through Time. What would New York fashion designers think of our fashion show? Learn about textiles and how they were produced, and view a fashion show of colonial period clothing.

7:00 pm, Thursday, July 11.

18th Century Women. Without these women, the Colony may well have failed. Explore the important role of women in 18th century New England.

1:30 pm, Sunday, July 21.

The Smith's Castle Collections. Are you interested in 17th and 18th century antiques? Take an in-depth look at pieces in the Smith's Castle collection.

7:00 pm, Thursday, August 8.

18th Century Lifestyles and Expressions. "Three sheets to the wind." "Don't go off half cocked." "Burning the candle at both ends." During your tour, discover the origins of these and other everyday expressions.

1:30 pm, Sunday, August 25.

Slavery. Discover more about slavery at Smith's Castle and elsewhere in colonial Rhode Island.

1:30 pm, Sunday, September 29.

Secrets of the Past—Architecture and Preservation at Smith's Castle. Investigate the nooks and crannies of the Castle. Take a top-to-bottom tour and learn more about the architecture and preservation of Smith's Castle. ■

—Carol Bozarth

Smith's Castle Volunteer Graphic Designer Wins Museum Association Competition

The Cocumscussoc Association is proud to announce the receipt of a Publications Award netted in the New England Museum Association (NEMA) 2002 Competition.

Sincere congratulations and thanks to Darrell McIntire, Smith's Castle member and volunteer graphic designer, who won third place in the *Rack Cards and Promotional Brochures* category for his design of the Castle brochures, *Smith's Castle: Four Centuries of Rhode Island History* and *Smith's Castle: The 18th Century Garden*.

Taking third place jointly with McIntire was Akins Marketing and Design for the Lyman Allyn Art Museum's brochure *Children's Art Park*.



Other winners in this category were Millyard Museum, Manchester Historic Association, Middlebury College of Art, Florence Griswold Museum, and the Hull Lifesaving Museum.

There were 192 publications from 71 museums entered in the competition. According to NEMA Executive Director Naomi Joshi, "The judges were extremely impressed with the

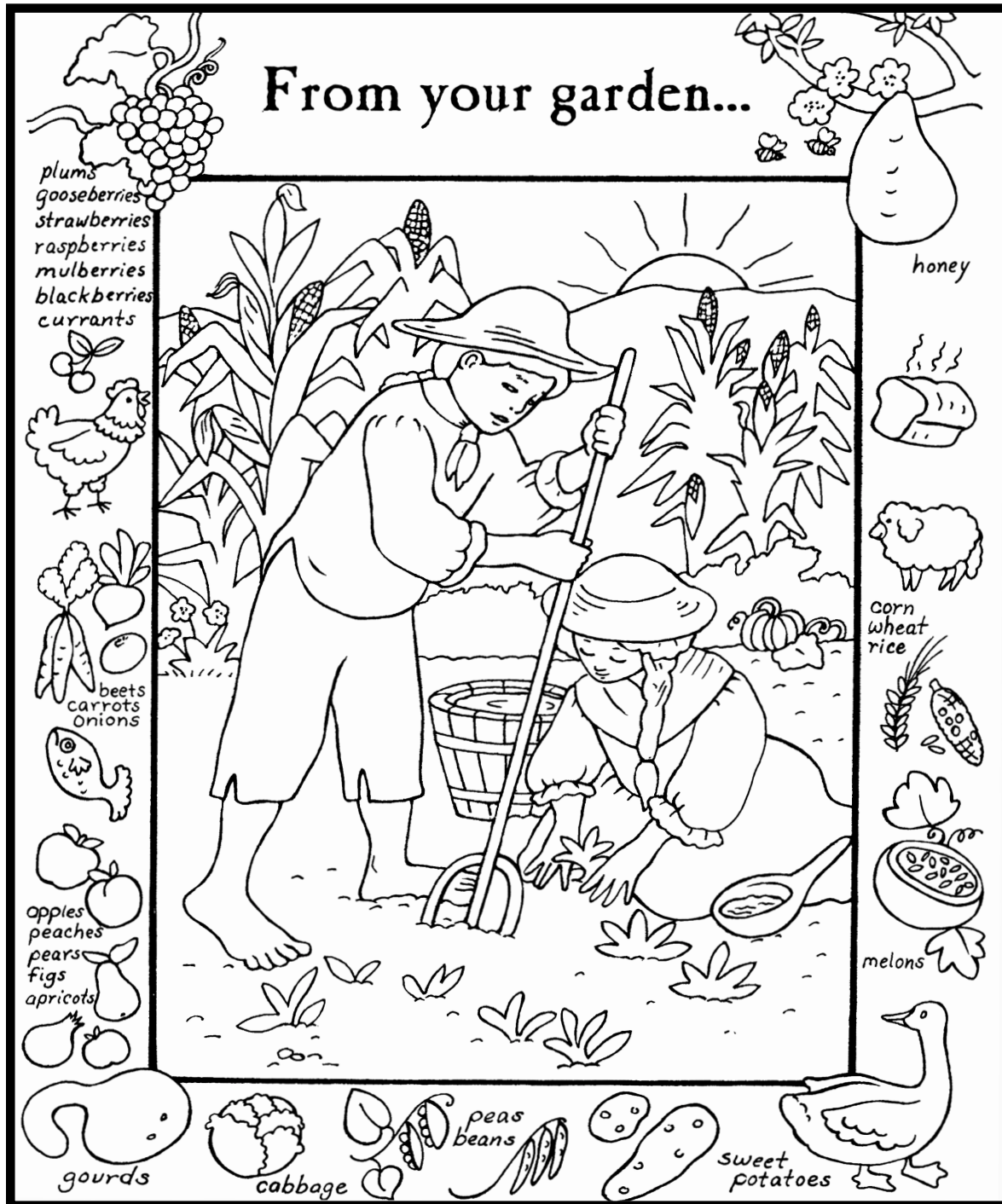
high quality of design and effective communication."

Winning entries will be exhibited at the New England Museum Association annual conference in Manchester, N.H. November 13–15, 2002. After the conference, all entries will be donated to the Boston Public Library.

McIntire has given countless hours to develop high-quality publications and a consistent graphic image for Smith's Castle. In addition to the brochures, compliments abound for the *Chronicle* design, Castle letterhead, business cards, Website, membership remittance envelopes, our new rack card, and the meeting room exhibition currently being developed. ■

Kids' Corner

All materials in the Kid's Corner may be copied.



Kids' Corner

Book Review

Children Look at King Philip's War from Two Points of View

Looking for a great children's book? Check out *Thunder from the Clear Sky* by Marcia Sewall. A companion to Sewall's *People of the Breaking Day*, this picture book describes the relations between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag in 1675. The most unusual feature of the narrative is the point of view, which tells the story of the same event from both an Indian and a Pilgrim perspective.

The narrative tells the story of King Philip's War. The Great Swamp Fight is described, as is the



involvement of the Narragansett Tribe. A full page painting illustrates each page of text. There is a wonderful map of New England in 1675 on the front and back papers that details colonial settlements and locates New England tribes. Appendices include a glossary, list of characters, and a bibliography of sources. Appropriate for grades three through six, this

book is available through CLAN at the North Kingstown Free Library.

—Christine Kalina, Education Chairperson

How Did the Colonists Make Blueberry Flummery?

Ingredients: Other berries, such as raspberries and strawberries, were also used in this recipe. Since cornstarch was not available as a thickener, a clear gelatin was made from the great bones in a calf's foot. The bones were cut out of the foot and boiled in water, then strained, making a clear jelly to use in this recipe.

Equipment and method: Colonial cooks liked shaping flummery in jelly molds. It was then spooned into dishes before serving at the end of a fine dinner. The molds would have been chilled in an icehouse in the south and in a springhouse in the other colonies.

Strawberry Flummery

Ingredients

3 cups fresh strawberries
3/4 cup cold water
1 cup white sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
6 tablespoons cornstarch

Utensils

measuring cups and spoons
small bowl
colander
3-qt. saucepan with lid
wooden spoon
fork
pot holder
6 small dessert cups or
6 cup jelly mold

1. Put strawberries into colander and run cold water over them.
2. Put the water and strawberries in saucepan. Cover saucepan and cook berries over medium heat for about ten minutes, or until they are soft. Stir them a few times with a wooden spoon while they cook.
3. While the berries cook, measure the sugar, salt, and cornstarch into bowl, and stir with a fork.
4. Slowly add the sugar mixture to cooked berries and stir. Turn down the heat and simmer mixture for another ten minutes or until it becomes thick.
5. Spoon the flummery into dessert cups or jelly mold. Chill before serving. To serve from a jelly mold: dip a small pointed knife in warm water and slide it around the rim to loosen the top edge. Place a large plate upside down on top of the mold. Hold the plate and mold together and quickly turn them over. Tap lightly on the bottom of the mold until the chilled flummery slides out. Serves 6.

Recipe courtesy of *Hasty Pudding, Johnnycakes, and Other Good Stuff* by Loretta Frances Ichord

Upcoming Events

Strawberry Festival and Gifts from the Garden

Marionettes, Creepy Crawlers, Shortcake Share Stage

The annual Strawberry Festival, Saturday, June 8 from noon to 4 pm, will feature the Roger Williams Park Zoomobile and master puppeteer Dan Butterworth and his marionettes as free entertainment sponsored by the North Kingstown Arts Council.

WickfordFlowers/Schartner Farms, Freeborne's Nursery, Rose of Sharon, and Swamp Yankee Greenhouses will sell their products.

Betty Mencucci will discuss beekeeping and the sweet products of these amazing insects. URI Master Gardeners will answer questions at their "Ask a Master Gardener Booth," and the Rhode Island Audubon Society and the Rhode Island Tree Council will provide helpful information.

Children's craft activities will include making the ever-popular tussie-mussies—tiny bouquets of flowers—and doing stenciling, an old decorative art. Activities are scheduled as follows.

Noon: Storytelling with Betty Follansbee.

12:30: 18th Century Garden tour.

1:00: The Zoomobile presents its "Creepy Crawly Critters," giving audiences an opportunity to learn about the diversity in our gardens and in rest of the natural world. Visitors can get acquainted with what are considered the world's most misunderstood creatures, including snakes, spiders, and cockroaches. Learn about the important jobs of these strange looking animals that sometimes make people squirm.

2:30: Dan Butterworth's energetic and joyful marionette performances entertain and magically captivate both children and adults. Harold Tovish, writing for *Boston Visual Arts News*, notes that Dan's performances bring "one of those moments in the theater when you realize, with a rush of gratitude, that a work of art is unfolding before you... providing pure delight... enchantment." Butterworth is known for his detailed carving, lavish painted sets, and elaborate staging with imaginative use of lighting, choreography, and music.

3:30: 18th Century Garden tour.

Admission is \$6 for shortcake, beverage, and house walk. \$1 for house walk only. Members are admitted free to the house. Children's crafts are \$1 each. Rain date is Sunday, June 9. ■



Dan Butterworth and friends. Photo courtesy of Dan Butterworth.

Smith's Castle Collaborates to Provide Youth Summer Camp

Smith's Castle is collaborating with the Rhode Island Historical Society and the Roger Williams National Memorial to provide two days on-site at the Castle during the RIHS 2002 summer youth camp program, "Historical Fun Under the Sun."

Camp runs from July 15–19 for students entering grades four to six, and August 10–23 for students entering grades five to eight. Campers engage in a variety of interesting

interactive activities that make learning about history exciting.

For the 8:30 am to 12:30 pm, July 15–19 "Rooting Around Rhode Island" session, Smith's Castle volunteer education staff will conduct activities in which camp participants step into the shoes of colonial children. They will prepare meals, do chores, play games, keep a journal using a quill pen, and learn about clothing and other aspects of daily colonial life.

Elsewhere during the week, participants will tour the Roger Williams National Memorial, the Stephen Hopkins House, and the John Brown House. Guests include a costumed pirate and other reenactors.

To request a brochure with registration information and details of other programs in the series, contact the Castle office, 294-3521. ■



Hearty Pats on the Back to...

Jan and Dick Breault for the newly repaired fence. What an improvement!

Darrell McIntire for designing the new promotional rack card beautiful new post card too.

Robert Fitts for his generous gift of books and materials for the Castle library. This gift vastly extends our plantation period resources.

Les and Muriel Flood for the inkjet printer... a welcome backup for the office printer.

Cathy Shippee for the many perennial plants for the Annex gardens.

The Adult Education Committee, led by **Chris Kalina**, for planning an exceptional 2002 season of events that will keep visitors coming back

to the Castle for new experiences.

Carol Bozarth and her crew for facilitating a great spring docent training. Also, special thanks to writers and editors of the model tour and to **Bob Hocking**, who videotaped each session. Our docent training is exceptional for a museum our size!

To all the volunteers who made May Opening Day a rousing success. To **Cathe and Jim Rezendes** for sponsoring Roger Williams (a.k.a. David Ely) for the day. To **Joe and Bonnie Smith** and their young musicians and dancers who performed around the May Pole. To all our visitors who contributed over 210 pounds of food and over \$100 cash to the NK Food Pantry in lieu of admission for the day.

Mark Your Calendar

Strawberry Festival and Gifts from the Garden

Saturday, June 8, noon to 4 pm
Sunday, June 9, rain date

Special Focus Tours

See page 8.

Book Discussion Group

Tuesday, June 18

Board of Trustees

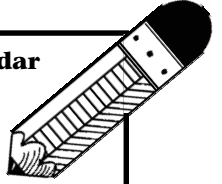
Monday, July 22, 7 pm

Docent Meetings

Thursday, July 11, 9 am
Thursday, August 1, 7 pm
Thursday, September 5, 9 am

Plantation Days

October 5 and 6



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