

Castle Chronicle

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Gather 'Round the Hearth: Association To Reconsider Firebox Use

At its autumn meeting, the Cocumscussoc Association Board of Trustees must decide a thorny but critical issue: Can we continue to use the Castle's 260-year-old fireplaces?

Neil G. Dunay

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Thank-You



Austen H. Fox, left, is seated with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Austen G. Fox in front of the fireplace they uncovered and restored. The fireplace was walled-up in the nineteenth century and remained forgotten for generations. Photo courtesy of Dr. John Gerster, Greenwich, Connecticut.

For years the Association has used the Castle's fireplaces for hearth-cooking demonstrations and for "atmosphere" during special events, such as the member holiday party. In autumn at Plantation Days, visitors are treated to a welcoming fire and aroma of bubbling stew. They experience a tangibly realistic glimpse of life in colonial times when a warm, glowing hearth was the center of the home and a defining feature of family life. It is this kind of evocative experience that "living-history" museums strive to deliver.

The experience does not come without cost or risk. Many architectural historians and museum curators agree that building fires in public historic-house museums is inappropriate. Association Trustee and House Committee chair Mary Turkel received comments from several experts on historic fireplace usage policies.

The biggest risk is from fire. The Castle's fireplaces and chimney flues date to Daniel Updike's c.1738 renovations of Richard Smith, Jr.'s c.1678 structure. Mortar has disintegrated and bricks have flaked.

Repointing the exterior brickwork with Portland cement (rather than lime mortar), done around 1980, has accelerated the deterioration of the original mortar and brick. Any hole that develops in the brickwork of the flue can become a conduit for a spark to make contact with the wooden infrastructure and set the building ablaze.

To remedy this risk, liners have been proposed. Cement liners, which are typically used, would irrevocably alter the historic brickwork of our fireplaces, notes

—continued on page 6

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

Note from the President

Last year, we completed the Museum Assessment Program (MAP), a professional study of the operations of Cocumscussoc Association and Smith's Castle. The recommendations in the report are providing guidance in defining the steps necessary to keep Smith's Castle healthy and viable well into the future.

The Board asked the Strategic Planning Committee, under the chairmanship of Peter Dunston, to review our mission statement and develop long-range goals. The revision of the mission statement was a beginning, and a long-range plan that flows from that mission statement is well underway.

The Committee has identified three areas of

need: to increase annual income to support ongoing operations; to provide more adequate facilities to support programming; and to develop other funding resources to give the Association a strong future. As work continues in assessing needs and developing objectives for the Association, we are looking forward to linking our budgets to these needs and forming a Development Committee to assure our ability to fund them.

This Committee's task will be to bring our visionary challenges to life through fund-raising for annual operating expenses, capital improvements, and endowment. We are excited about these next steps.

—Jan Breault

Trustees Approve Sign, Exhibit Design, and Committee Work

Following are highlights of the July 22 meeting:

Announcements. A Development Committee is to be established to oversee Association fundraising activities. Volunteers are needed to prepare job descriptions to assist the Nominating Committee.

Treasurer. A computerized accounting system is now operational.

Collections. Richard and Cindy DeMaio donated a Cocumscussoc [sic] Farm soda bottle to the collection. The Education Committee is to control objects used for its programs.

Docents. Members have been surveyed for feedback on Castle operations that directly affect their work. Results will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Education Committee. Special focus tours, children's activities at Strawberry Festival, and the summer camp were very successful; a study collection of archaeological artifacts is available for programs; fall adult programs are set; and a handbook for youth program docents is complete. To date, 851 school children have been hosted in 2002. Openings are available for two youth historians and an additional leader.

Grounds. Grounds chairperson position is vacant.

Membership. New members are increasing. Trustees were asked to suggest potential new members.

18th Century Garden. Association will work with URI Master Gardeners through 2003 to plan and care for garden. Responsibility for garden will rest with Association at end of 2003.

Long Range Site and Building Development. A summary of the work and recommendations of the committee was given. Note: The committee's work will be reported in the next issue of the *Chronicle*.

Strategic Planning. Committee continues to meet to determine future needs and priorities.

Resident Director. Admissions numbers slightly down, but receipts up; member word-of-mouth requested in marketing grounds for rental; tour initiatives developing with Elderhostel programs; Strawberry Festival successful; grant funding still sought for meeting room exhibit.

Highway Signs. Town of North Kingstown to mount signs directing visitors to the Castle.

The following were approved: design of Post Road entry sign; panel design for meeting room exhibit; charge to Long Range Site and Building Development Committee to continue meeting; establishment of committee to plan events celebrating the 325th anniversary of the house; and the 2003 calendar of events. ■

Welcome New Members

Mike and Kathy Baker
Bryant Bozarth
Marcia Brennan
Barbara Green
Kathy Hartley
Nancy A. Heilhecker
Gene and Joan McDermott
Heidi Keller Moon
Mary M. Nunes
Michael, Lynn, and James Pelligrino
James Powell
Jane and Ed Rawlings
Raymond and B. Dawn Roch
Mr. and Mrs. William Scott
Bill and Tammy Sharp
Diane Traynor

—as of 7/28/02

Committee News

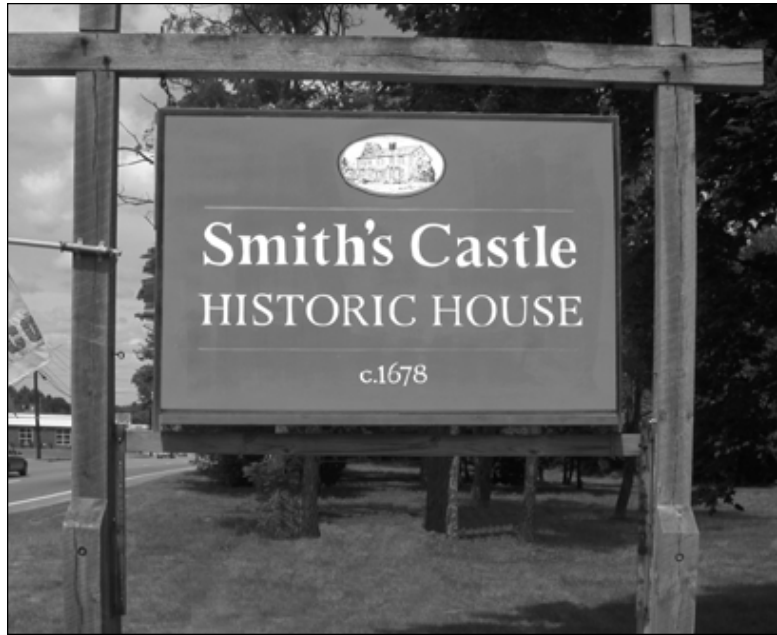
Marketing Committee Sneak Previews New Entrance Sign

The Marketing and Public Relations Committee is excited about the new entrance sign that will entice passers-by to visit Smith's Castle. The Committee selected a sign of tasteful simplicity and period authenticity that is appropriate to our beautiful historic site.

Local sign painter, Rob Blais, designed and fabricated the sign, and is making every effort to install it in time for Plantation Days.

The Committee researched sign styles and history, prepared performance criteria, and collaborated with the designer to develop this very important communications tool. Kudos to our staff of dedicated marketers: Diane Smith, Bob Hocking, Liisa Hallberg, Becky Morgan, Ron Allen, and Barbara Carey. ■

—Carol Allen, Chair



This photo mock-up shows the new entrance sign as it will appear when it is mounted. Look for it in place at Plantation Days. Photo of sign face by Ron Allen.

Docents and Friends Mark Mid-Season with Mobcap Salute

It is hard to believe that we are over halfway through the season at Smith's Castle. Although the Docent-Friend numbers have been depleted this year due to retirement, ill health, or relocation, we have managed to recruit fledgling Docents and Friends. Mobcaps off to Carol Bozarth for the wonderful Docent training!

Opening day was a huge success thanks to favorable weather and growing community interest in Smith's Castle. Similarly, Strawberry Festival continues as part of the local tradition—many visitors commented that this event heralds the arrival of summer. Docents and Friends manned the stalls and provided a delicious offering of shortcake. Thanks to Meghan McKay and crew who coordinated this major event.

As part of ongoing Docent education, we invited Don Leonard to talk about the origin of place names in Rhode Island. In June, the docents visited the textile department at the University of Rhode Island. We were treated to a fascinating lecture by Professor Margaret Ordonez on 17th and 18th century textiles. Our visit was followed by lunch at the URI Faculty Club. We are already planning a return visit and possibly a trip to the textile museum at Lowell, Massachusetts, as well.

The docents of the Smith-Appleby House in Smithfield came to the Castle in July, and we will visit them at a later date. This type of goodwill activity enables us to communicate with docents of other historic houses and galvanizes our efforts to conserve, re-

store, and interpret Rhode Island landmarks.

We look forward to the remainder of the season and wish to extend our warmest thanks and appreciation to all our Docents and Friends—past and present. ■

—Janice Brown, Docent Leader

Youth Make Clothing

For their summer project, the Youth Historians are creating a dress-up box for visiting children. They are making simplified period clothing for children of all ages to try on at festivals and on special tours. Donations of historic looking fabric and accessories, such as hats, would be greatly appreciated. Bring donations to the Annex during office hours. ■

Committee News

Artifacts Come Home for Spring Youth Program



Artifacts from the URI excavation led by John Senulis in the early 1970s include bottle pieces (top), a cut nail, and horseshoe fragment. Photos by Chris Kalina.

This spring, Chris Kalina, Education Chair, presented an exciting "Archaeology at Cocumscussoc" program for fifth graders from the Hanaford School gifted and talented program using artifacts from Smith's Castle archaeological excavations. Patricia Rubertone, associate professor of anthropology at Brown University, graciously assisted by providing a collection of field study items that reflect the ever-changing cultural heritage of Cocumscussoc. The budding archaeologists were enthralled with the opportunity to examine these treasures from the past.

As an extension of their ongoing intensive study of archaeology, the students first received a classroom trunk show by Chris

Kalina and then visited the Castle. The program included an examination of the inventories of Richard Smith, Jr. (1692) and Daniel Updike (1757) and an evaluation of the significance of using primary source documents for archaeological study. During their on-site visit, students investigated field excavation areas aided by maps from the 1972 and 1991 archaeological excavations. As part of this study, students examined the artifacts Rubertone had prepared from the archaeology conducted at Cocumscussoc in the early 1970s by John Senulis, and curated by the Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission. The collection includes a representative sample of

the kinds of artifacts found on the site: ceramics, glass, iron, shells, and a clay pipe stem. These artifacts represent the 17th through 19th centuries.

The artifacts will remain at Smith's Castle for future programming. We are excited to have such an invaluable teaching tool for both youth and adult education programs. ■

—Christine Kalina, Chair

Note: Patricia Rubertone and Robert Fitts began the latest phase of archaeological investigation at Cocumscussoc in 1989. Until now, all artifacts and materials that were found at Smith's Castle were stored off site.

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



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Special Events

A Sweet Day Brings Crowds for Shortcake

Hundreds of people came to Strawberry Festival on June 8—a beautiful, sunny Saturday. The event was organized by Sarah Belle, Nancy Birch, Carol Bozarth, Jan Breault, Betsy Steinman, Meghan McKay, and Barbara Carey. There were also 87 other hardworking and cheerful volunteers who really made the day happen. The North Kingstown Arts Council again provided a generous grant for entertainment by Dan Butterworth and

the Roger Williams Park Zoo-mobile. Also on the day's schedule of events were garden tours by Carol Allen and storytelling by Katie Latimer. The front lawn was sprinkled with vendors: Schartner Farms/Wickford Flowers, Rose of Sharon, Freeborn's, and Swamp Yankee Greenhouses all returned this year.

The Committee also arranged for local non-profits to set up information booths: The Audubon

Society, R.I. Tree Council, R.I. Master Gardeners, and beekeeper Betty Mencucci set up shop on the lawn to answer questions and chat with guests.

Children's crafts, both tussie mussies and stenciling, were a huge hit, thanks to all who donated flowers and tin cans for materials. An extremely efficient shortcake crew served a record 654 shortcakes—it was a truly sweet day! ■

—Meghan McKay



Dan Butterworth, puppeteer extraordinaire, wades into his large, appreciative audience during this year's highly successful Strawberry Festival. Photo by Rick Collins.

Castle to Celebrate 325th Year in 2003

Next year will mark the 325th anniversary of the date Richard Smith, Jr. built the house we now call Smith's Castle. The Board of Trustees has approved establishing a committee to commemorate the event. The new committee will be charged with planning celebratory events and promotions throughout the year, including special programs

at the Castle, and tie-ins with other events in the community, such as the 400th birthday of Roger Williams.

After his house was burned in spring 1676 after the Great Swamp Fight, Richard Smith, Jr. built the grand new home our visitors see today. While we have no firm date of construction, most scholars believe

the house was built before June 18, 1678, the date of Smith's first known letter written from Wickford after the trading post was burned.

If you have ideas for special events for this historic occasion or would like to volunteer to assist the committee, please call or email the Castle. ■

Gather 'Round the Hearth

Lawrence A. Sorli, an architect who was involved during the restoration of the Castle as a representative of the National Park Service. Over time, they could also damage the brick structure. "The old bricks and lime mortar must be able to breathe and settle as a unity without obstruction from stronger, modern cementitious linings..." he observed. "If moisture is trapped within the old brick and cannot evaporate through the inside face of the flue..., there could be brick spalling caused by freeze-thaw cycles."

Another option is a flexible stainless steel liner carefully installed so that it is reversible and has no impact on the original brick construction. This option should be explored in the future. Architect Clifford M. Renshaw warns, however, that such a liner may affect

the fireplace draft. "The draft of this fireplace has always been a problem. Installing a flue liner is only going to exacerbate the problem," he noted. The liner will shrink the flue even further to a size that will not accommodate a proper draft, sending smoke back into the rooms.

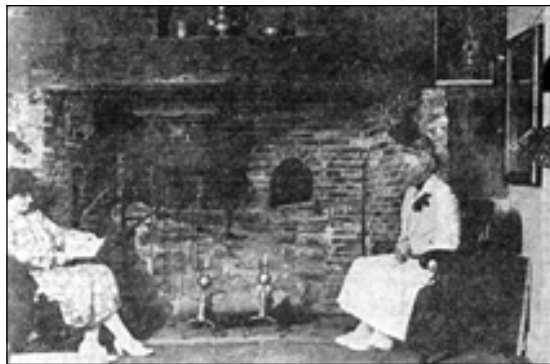
Moreover, the existence of a liner does not guarantee fire prevention. Despite the presence of a liner and the taking of every precaution, an open-hearth cooking demonstration at Stawbery Banke Museum (Portsmouth, N.H.) led to a fire in a c.1780 house when a spark escaped the flue and landed against wood shingles. Fortunately, the fire was extinguished and the house saved, but now the group does its cooking in a building with a modern chimney built to current code.

Even if the flues can be made

safe, open-hearth fires pose an additional problem: Smoke and soot damage valuable collections. Soot and grease accumulate on artifacts and degrade delicate items such as fabrics and paintings.

Our trustees are encumbered with an important decision: Is use of the house's fireplaces compatible with our mission to preserve the 17th century structure and its collections, as well as with our responsibility to ensure public safety? If we cannot use the fireplaces, how can we fulfill our mission to educate the public about the hearth and cooking techniques of the colonial era? The Board of Trustees requests your input. Please deliver your comments in writing to the Castle office by October 1 by mail or email (smithscastle@earthlink.net). ■

This Old Rhode Island Fireplace Long Hid Itself Away



The fireplace shown above was recently uncovered in the old Richard Smith House at Cocumscussoc by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Austen G. Fox of New York. For generations no memory of the original fireplace remained, as it had been walled up and papered over.

The presence in the room, obviously at one time the kitchen, of a stout oak crossbeam, led Mr. Fox to believe at some time a fireplace must have been there. Investigation by Norman Isham, expert in Colonial architecture, disclosed not the usual fireplace to be found in many early Rhode Island houses, with one Dutch oven, but an enormous one

capable of burning logs of great length. Little by little, as the mortar and bricks were carefully picked away, the wide hearth, chimney and two Dutch ovens were disclosed.

The flue is so large that a man of ordinary size could climb through it to the roof.

The present house stands on the site of one of the first block houses in the colony. After its partial demolition in a bitter fight with the Indians, it was rebuilt from timbers taken from the old trading post a mile nearer Providence on the old Indian trail, when Roger Williams, friend of Richard Smith, closed the post on his departure for England to procure a charter for Rhode Island. At that time Smith, though a close ally of Williams on many matters, was his opponent in the struggle for possession of that section of the west shore, claimed by both Connecticut and Rhode Island.

By coincidence, Mrs. Fox, a lineal descendant of Roger Williams, has restored to the estate some of its early character as a prosperous dairy farm. Here in early days, Smith's wife made a reputation throughout the colonies for her cheese, made from a recipe she brought from England. Mrs. Fox is shown in the picture seated at the right of the fireplace. Her daughter, Mrs. Alice Gerster, is at left.

—*The Evening Bulletin*, Providence, Wednesday, August 17, 1927.
Reprinted courtesy *The Providence Journal*.

Noted Rhode Island Architect Conducted 1926 Restoration of Kitchen Fireplace

The *Evening Bulletin* article of August 17, 1927, reprinted on page 6, describes Norman Morrison Isham's restoration of the kitchen fireplace at Smith's Castle.

Isham's fame as an expert on colonial architecture spread instantly upon the publication in 1895 of his and Albert F. Brown's *Early Rhode Island Houses*, a ground-breaking work in the field of vernacular American architecture in the colonial period. Isham went on to restore such important Rhode Island buildings as the Stephen Hopkins House (Providence), the Redwood Library, Trinity Church, and Old Colony House (Newport), the Eleazer Arnold House (Lincoln), and the Gilbert Stuart birthplace here in North Kingstown. Isham worked on colonial buildings throughout New England and was in charge of the Colonial Rooms at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.¹

Having first summered, then resided permanently, in Wickford, Isham was no stranger to our house. Smith's Castle was one of the houses he featured in *Early Rhode Island Houses* in 1895. Isham wrote of the Castle, "We shall meet many [houses] like it in the Narragansett country, though with none so large nor so fine. Nor have any other houses, so far as we know, the crossed summers which mark this house as one of a class rare in all New England."²

Isham returned to Cocumscussoc about 1907 as part of a committee charged with marking historical sites in Rhode Island. On June 15, 1907, he gave the address for the ceremony to place the memorial on the "great grave" of the forty soldiers who died in the Great

Swamp attack.³ In September 1919, Isham returned to photograph the house, and several of these images are stored at the Rhode Island Historical Society today.⁴

It was in November 1926 that Isham was called in by the Fox family to restore the Castle's kitchen fireplace. Isham identified four states of the fireplace (fig. 1). The first state is the one we see today as restored, and likely the way it looked when Daniel Updike renovated the Castle shortly after he inherited it in 1737. The fireplace extends the full width of the hearth and contains two beehive ovens at the back. Daniel's son, Lodowick, probably renovated the fireplace during his tenure (1757–1804). He shortened the width of the fireplace by adding a new beehive oven to the right side. As a rule of thumb, most colonial builders adopted this style of fireplace (oven at the side instead of the rear) about 1740–1750, although some Wickford houses were built with rear beehive ovens as late as the 1780s.⁵ The new style was an improvement because the cook did not have to reach over the fire to get to the oven behind, thus protecting clothing and body from burning.

To create the third fireplace, as shown by Isham, the depth of the firebox was reduced by infilling the back. In the last renovation, a shallow Victorian firebox was created by shortening both the back and the sides.

Two photos show the work in progress. The first photo (fig. 2) shows what the fireplace looked like after Austen G. Fox removed the wall that had covered it and had dismantled portions of a fireplace

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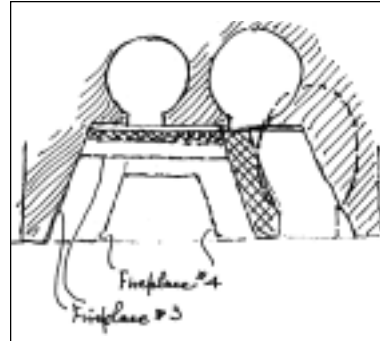


Figure 1. Isham's drawing of Smith's Castle fireplace with his view of the four different fireplaces it contained before his renovation. Image courtesy of the Rhode Island Historical Society (RHI x3 2997).



Figure 2. The Isham drawing appears on the reverse of this photo with the note: "Cocumscussoc. Nov. 1, 1926 / Photo taken by Anty./ Kitchen fireplace after Mr. Fox had taken out one fireplace, traces of which are seen as the back of the present (Nov. 1) fireplace. / N.M.I." Photo courtesy of the Rhode Island Historical Society (RHI(x3)2997).



Figure 3. The kitchen fireplace as it appeared after Isham removed the side ovens and exposed remnants of the beehive behind. Photo courtesy of the Rhode Island Historical Society (RHI(x3)2998).

Upcoming Events

Colonial Tavern Life on Tap for Fall

Anita Rafael, Curator of the White Horse Tavern, Newport, R.I., will present a program on colonial tavern life and libations on Friday, September 13 at 6:30 pm at Smith's Castle. Ms. Rafael is a

regular contributor to several publications and has made guest appearances on the Travel Channel, PBS and British TV, as well as being a featured guest on many local TV stations. She organized *Newport On Foot*,™ walking tours of the co-

lonial district of Newport. Bring a picnic supper and join us on the lawn for an entertaining and educational evening! Call 294-3521 to make your reservation. Attendance is limited. Castle members \$5. General public \$8. ■

Plantation Days Add Music and Dance

On October 5th (11 am–5 pm) and October 6th (11 am–3 pm) Smith's Castle will be transformed into a looking glass on the past with 2002 Plantation Days, the Castle's annual celebration of 17th and 18th century life. Visitors will be treated to the sights, smells, and sounds of colonial life with Castle tours, a pe-

riod encampment, colonial music and dance, fireside cooking, musket and cannon drill, fife and drum corps, demonstrations of Native American life, children's activities, and much, much more.

The Plantation Days Committee is seeking volunteers to help with the countless tasks required to make this

event a success. The committee is particularly in need of volunteers to staff the Castle office and gift shop during the event and to help with setting-up and cleaning-up. Contact Dianne McGowan at 295-7248. We hope to see you in October! ■

—John Aubin, Dianne McGowan,
and Becky Morgan, Co-Chairs

Foodways, Narragansetts, Stone Walls Billed for October Speakers Series

The Castle Adult Education Committee is pleased to sponsor another exciting October "Coffee and a Taste of History" series. Programs begin at 10 am and are open to the public. RICH programs are free. Refreshment is provided. Audience size is limited and advanced registration is required. Call 294-3521.

Two of these presentations are made possible through the Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities (RICH) Enrichment Opportunities program. The committee, an independent affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, promotes life-long learning for all Rhode Islanders through grants and programs.

Saturday, October 14: Eat Your Way through the 17th and 18th Centuries by Carol Bozarth. Learn about the latest techniques in the colonial kitchen. Discover how cakes rose

without baking powder, why milk was only consumed in summer, and how to "search" flour. Bozarth will discuss the art of cooking and the art of entertaining in colonial times. She is a Castle docent whose experience as a registered dietician led to her love of foodways history and hearth and open fire cooking using techniques and recipes from the 17th and 18th centuries.

Saturday, October 19: Lifestyles of the Narragansett People by Ella Sekatau. How did the Narragansett live before their first contact with Europeans, and how did their lifestyles change in subsequent centuries? A slide presentation, hands-on exhibit of items from daily life, and participation in a traditional dance of unity and peace make this presentation fun for people of all ages. Dr. Sekatau is the Narragansett Tribal Ethno-historian and Medi-

cine Woman. She directed the Native American program at Plimoth Plantation and, for many years, has presented programs in school systems and colleges throughout Southern New England. (RICH)

Saturday, October 26: The Stone Walls of South County by Marc Joel Levitt and Mathias Oppersdorff. Stone walls may strike us as simply charming features of South County's rural landscape, but Levitt tells the greater story of these monuments. Their builders, many of them Native Americans or African Americans, worked like sculptors, assessing the attributes of each stone. A storyteller, writer and educator with a varied background, Levitt captivated audiences with his "Johnny Appleseed" at the 2001 Strawberry Festival. He directs the Charles Fortes Elementary School Museum Project. (RICH) ■

Kids' Corner



Kids' Corner

Fun Facts About Colonial Children

Children in 1600's New England had to work hard. Their chores included: fetching water from brooks and streams, gathering firewood, herding animals, gathering berries and other wild plants, and helping their parents cook, clean, preserve food, plant and harvest crops, and care for younger children.

Even though children worked very hard, they still had time to play. They probably played marbles, ball games, board games, and running games.

Children were expected to show courtesy to

adults, including their parents, by bowing and curt-sying to them.

Both boys and girls in 1600's New England wore gowns (dresses) until they were about seven years of age.

Children often slept on mattresses that were laid on the floor at night. The mattresses were stuffed with straw. Some children slept in their parents' bed.

Children and adults took baths only a few times a year. They thought bathing was unhealthy.

Nursery Rhymes

Colonial children, like children today, also told nursery rhymes. Do you know what some of these nursery rhymes really mean?

*Jack be nimble, Jack be quick,
Jack jump over the candle stick.*

After dipping candles, a colonial woman would hang them from two long horizontal sticks to allow them to harden and cool. These sticks, and not the candles themselves were referred to as "candle sticks."

*Lucy Lockett lost her pocket,
Sally Fisher found it,
Not a penny was there in it
Just a ribbon 'round it.*

Most colonial clothes did not have pockets in them. A colonial pocket was a detachable cloth bag used for holding pocket books (wallets), sewing, and other things that girls and women would like to have on hand throughout the day. Pockets were tied round the waist with a tape, or ribbon, and they were often decorated with embroidery.

Source: *Proteacher.com*

Apple Fritters

Ingredients

5-8 apples	2 tablespoons sugar
1 tablespoon melted butter	vegetable oil
2 large eggs	powdered sugar
3/4 cup milk	
1-1/2 cup all purpose flour	
pinch of salt	

Utensils

butter knife	spatula
measuring cups/spoons	paper towels
mixing bowls	fork
small pot or pan	
frying pan	
hot plate	

1. Peel and core the apples with knife.
2. Cut the apples into rings about 1/4-inch thick.
3. Beat the eggs; add the milk and beat again.
4. Melt the butter and set aside; mix the flour, salt, and sugar lightly; add melted butter and blend together. This batter should be thick.
5. Heat a little less than 1/2-inch of oil in the frying pan Dip the apple rings/slices into the batter and fry them, turning once so that they are golden brown on both sides. Add oil as necessary
6. Take the fritters out of the oil and place them on paper towels to drain and cool. Sprinkle them with powdered sugar (though not a colonial step).

Recipe from *Life as a Colonist* by Bob Rybak



This Fall at Smith's Castle

September

Date	Time	Event
Thursday, 5	9:00 am	Docent meeting
Friday, 13	6:30 pm	Anita Raphael <i>Colonial Tavern Life and Drinking Customs</i> Reservations required (294-3521)
Tuesday, 17	7:00 pm	Book Discussion Group: <i>Until I Have No Country</i>
Sunday, 29	7:00 pm	Focus Tour: <i>Secrets of the Past</i> (reservations required)

In September watch
Rhode Trip, Cox Cable Channel 3
at 9:00 pm Monday–Friday &
8:30 pm Saturday & Sunday
for Castle coverage.

October

Date	Time	Event
Thursday, 3	7:00 pm	Docent meeting
Saturday, 5	11:00–5:00 pm	Plantation Days
Sunday, 6	11:00–3:00 pm	Plantation Days
Sunday, 12	10:00 am	October Speakers Series: Carol Bozarth <i>Foodways</i> (reservations required)
Saturday, 19	10:00 am	October Speakers Series: Ella Sekatau <i>Lifestyles of the Narragansett People</i> (reservations required)
Saturday, 26	10:00 am	October Speakers Series: Marc Joel Levitt and Mathias Oppersdorff <i>Stone Walls of South County</i> (reservations required)
Sunday, 27		Closing Day
Monday, 28	7:00 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting

November

Date	Time	Event
Thursday, 7	9:00 am	Docent Meeting

December

Date	Time	Event
Saturday, 7	2:00–6:00 pm	Christmas at the Castle
Sunday, 8	2:00–6:00 pm	Christmas at the Castle
Friday, 13	6:00–8:00 pm	Members' Christmas Party

continued from page 7

that Isham identified as the fourth renovation of the fireplace. Another photo (fig. 3) shows the fireplace after Isham had removed much of the later fireplaces but before he had restored the right beehive oven.

This was not Isham's last association with the Castle. He returned in 1929 to stabilize the structure on the front, particularly the southeast corner post. Isham died in 1943, just six years before the Cocumscussoc

Association was formed to save the house from demolition—an effort he no doubt would have applauded. ■

References

¹ For a biography and further information, see Anne Baker's Web site on Isham. (<http://home.sprynet.com/~awb02/ham1.htm>)

² Isham and Brown, *Early Rhode Island Houses* (Providence: Preston and Rounds, 1895), 64.

³ *Report of the Committee on Marking Historical Sites in Rhode Island* (Providence: E.L. Freeman, 1914), 65–83.

⁴ Rhode Island Historical Society Graphics Division, Lot 164, Wickford Folder. Cocumscussoc. Subjects include the front exterior, the view of the cove from the front door, the front stairs, and the fireplace wall of the "East Parlor."

⁵ The Thomas Cole house, 146 Main Street, built 1786, has a back kitchen fireplace with rear beehive oven.

Hearty Pats on the Back to...

All the newly trained Docents who are now helping with guided tours. Welcome to our family: **Marjorie Bartlett, Barbara Green, Janet Hatch, Catherine Hiller, Mary Nunes, and Diane Traynor.**

The many Docents who provided exceptional quality spring and summer programming to youth on site and throughout the state, including special projects for Forest Park Elementary, and summer camp days for the Rhode Island Historical Society and the South Kingstown Parks and Recreation Department.

Jim Powell who donated *Financial Navigator* software and spent countless volunteer hours putting Cocumscussoc Association's financial records in highly professional computerized form.

Marketing and Public Relations Committee, chaired by **Carol Allen**, for developing the new Smith's Castle entrance sign. It's going to be classy and inviting. Watch for it!

Long Range Site and Building Development Committee, chaired by **Mary Turkel**, for the first phase of investigation of historical, archaeological, and environmental site features in preparation for future planning needs. Check our next edition for a report.

The Strawberry Festival coordinating committee and 80-some other volunteers for making this "sweet day possible."

Jules Cohen, Master Gardener and Castle member, and an enthusiastic crew of volunteers for getting us back on track with garden care.

Les Flood for building and mounting the new garden brochure box... our garden brochures are now easily available for all our visitors.

Dick and Anne Bowen for the helpful donation of a lawnmower.

Dianne McGowan for donating an inviting supply of basket-making materials.

Bob Viera for getting us in to shape with his numerous repair projects.



The *Chronicle* has been notified of the deaths of Castle members **John Heard** and **John Lawrence Chapman**. On behalf of the membership, we extend sincere sympathy to their families.

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