

Castle Chronicle



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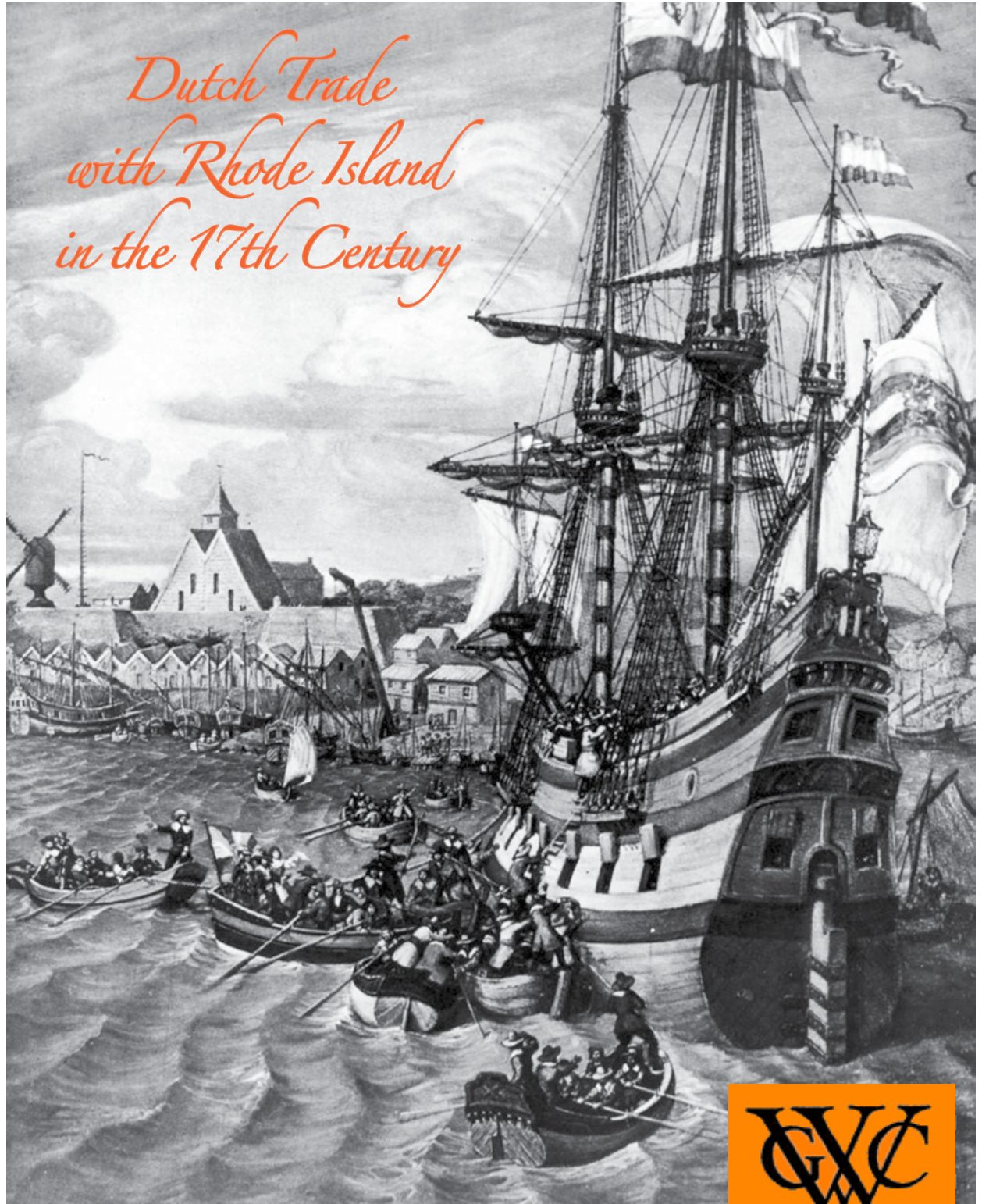
Inside

- 2
President's Note
- 3
Business Planning
Project
- 4
*Dutch Trade with
Rhode Island*
- 9
Kids' Corner
- 11
Hearthside Recipes
- 12
Stays, Corsets, &
Undergarments
- 16
Tea on the Fly
- 17
Yale University
R.I. Furniture
Archive
- 19
Smith's Castle
Archive

A Dutch
West Indiaman docks
in New Amsterdam.
Courtesy Life Photos.

Inset:
Emblem of the Dutch
West India Company
(*Geotroyeerde Westindische
Compagnie*).

Dutch Trade with Rhode Island in the 17th Century



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

Note from the President

As you read this issue of the *Chronicle*, you will see how the stars are aligning for Smith's Castle, moving us forward in our preservation and interpretation of this national historic landmark. Of course, in our case the stars that guide our fate are our volunteers, who keep this place alive with their enthusiasm and dedication.

At the end of spring, as we headed toward opening day, our grounds were a mess. Many thanks to Robin Porter (below) who stepped in to nearly single-handedly clean up the grounds and weed the colonial revival garden. (And he came back to recruit members on opening day!)

Trustee and buildings chair Don Kern has been playing a pivotal role in preserving the Castle. He has been working exhaustively on implementing the \$45,000 State Preservation Grant project to diminish humidity problems that threaten the Castle's structure and collections. Work is nearly complete on this project, except for some exterior drainage (see page x).

Elaine Robinson, Evan Usler, and other volunteers have been preserving and cataloguing our archives, as well as reconfiguring the space in which it is housed (page 19). This work helps preserve the history of our own association and documents our contribution within the national preservation movement.



We continue to hone and invest in our collections. Collections coordinator Louise Duckworth's installation of a recently acquired tea table (see page x) offers our visitors an additional glimpse into the Updike family in the eighteenth century. The layers of stories Louise is building through these vignettes help our visitors connect in general with colonial life and specifically with the real stories of the inhabitants of Cocumscussoc, whether they be the Updike matriach who sidelines as a renowned doctress or a slave boy serving tea who later serves his country in its fight for independence.

Volunteers on the long-range site committee have secured yet another grant that will be applied to the landscape work that is in progress. The Felicia Fund awarded Smith's Castle \$5,000 that will help fund a consultant who will develop a master landscape plan.

Finally, to set a course toward sustainability and expansion, Smith's Castle has been honored to be named as part of a statewide business planning project for historic house museums (opposite). Only five museums were selected for the project, which will result in a three-year business plan for our site. As a result of this project, Smith's Castle may become a model for other small museums in the state.

Carol Palmer

—Carol Palmer, President

Welcome New Members

Dennis and Pam Flavin

Clive and Karen Goodwin

Patricia Harmon

Janine Jacques

Brenda Walsh

—as of June 15, 2009



The *Chronicle* has learned of the death of Christina G. Kassal. On behalf of the membership we extend sincere sympathy to her family and friends.

Smith's Castle gratefully acknowledges a generous bequest from former member David Outerbridge of Belfast, Maine, who died in January of this year.



Many thanks to Robin and Lilian Bell Porter who earlier this spring took on the clean up of the Colonial Revival Garden on their own! (a task doubly difficult as there had been no fall clean up). Smith's Castle is extremely grateful for the efforts of these two dedicated members.

Smith's Castle Selected for Business Planning Project

In June, Smith's Castle began its participation in a project that will lead to a three-year business plan for our organization. Preserve Rhode Island (PRI), the statewide non-profit for historic preservation, launched the business planning project to assist historic sites in R.I. to become higher performing and sustainable organizations. PRI and the R.I. Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHPHC), selected five historic sites to participate in a statewide effort to identify best practices: Linden Place in Bristol, the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society in Kingston, Hearthside in Lincoln, Babcock-Smith House in Westerly, and Smith's Castle.

"The survival of historic sites that preserve Rhode Island's heritage is a challenge for private, non-profit community organizations," noted Edward Sanderson, Executive Director, RIHPHC. "Historic site organizations need to find ways to work smarter in the future. This project will offer guidance on the business fundamentals of operating and sustaining historic sites."

The three-part business planning project will (1) develop complete business plans for the five competitively selected historic sites by analyzing revenue and expenses and identifying strategies to close any gaps; (2) develop a template business plan that will be available to members of the Historic Sites Coalition of Rhode Island; and (3) explore ways Rhode Island historic organizations might restructure themselves to become more sustainable, including networking, affiliation, partnership, and even merger. PRI will collaborate with the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage at Brown University to convene two facilitated workshops to share the results of the business planning project.

The project is funded by a federal grant from Preserve America to RIHPHC and partially matched with a \$7,500 grant from the Rhode Island Foundation. Each site will also contribute \$500 to the development of their individual business plans.

Five interns were selected to work with the historic sites selected for the project:

Jessica Andrus is an MBA student at the University of Michigan Ross School of Business. She has her undergraduate degree from Purdue University in industrial management and manufacturing operations.

Kimberly Goodman is a graduate student in the museum studies program at the Harvard University



Four of the interns who will be developing the Smith's Castle business plan take an ice cream break. Jessica Andrus, Melissa Higgins, Sara Marcoux, and Megan Stasz (l to r) pose for Kimberly Goodman, the fifth intern.

Extension School. She holds a bachelors degree in anthropology from the University of Colorado.

Melissa Higgins received an undergraduate degree in architectural studies from Connecticut College and has worked in museums ever since. Melissa is currently pursuing her masters in museum studies through the Harvard Extension School

Sarah Marcoux is pursuing a masters degree in history and museum studies at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts. A native Rhode Islander, she earned her bachelor's degree in French studies and history from the University of New Hampshire.

Meghan Stasz is an MBA candidate at Boston College and received a bachelors degree in government from Hamilton College.

For Smith's Castle the project is being overseen by an ad-hoc committee chaired by Past President Neil Dunay with members including Assistant President Maggie Skenyon, Executive Committee Trustee Barbara Vollmar, and Trustee Paul Christiansen. To launch the project, the five interns and PRI staff toured Smith's Castle on Thursday, June 4, and interviewed committee members about the Castle's operations, challenges, and goals. Subsequently, Meghan Stasz was selected as lead intern for Smith's Castle, with the support of Melissa Higgins. Meghan and Melissa attended the June 15 board meeting.

If you have questions about the project or suggestions for the Castle's business plan, please email smithscastle@earthlink.net ■

Dutch Trade with Rhode Island

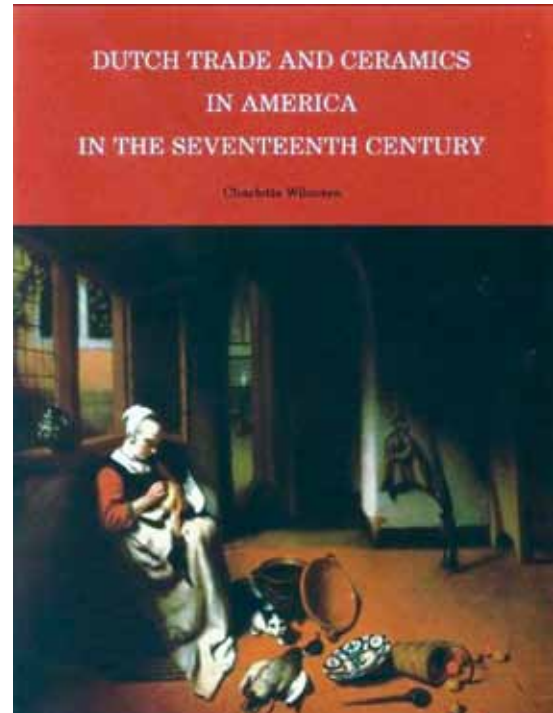
Charlotte Wilcoxon in *Dutch Trade and Ceramics in America in the Seventeenth Century* presents a comprehensive survey of Dutch trade with the English colonies of North America in the seventeenth century. On the following pages is a reprint of her chapter on Dutch Trade with Rhode Island. According to Wilcoxon, "of all the New England colonies, no other had a more sustained and cordial trade relationship with the Dutch than Rhode Island." Among the traders she cites is Richard Smith. In the decade of the 1640s Smith, as we know, maintained a residence in New Amsterdam, and, as the literature on the history of Smith's Castle frequently notes, conducted an active fur trade with the Narragansett at his Cocumscussoc trading house.

Wilcoxon's reference to Richard Smith is in the context of a trade agreement among Smith, Captain Jeremias Clarke, and John Dummer of Boston. Smith appears often in New Amsterdam court records involving trade agreements that went sour. This is no surprise as these agreements often were extremely convoluted, involved numerous individuals, and governed the exchange of various forms of currency, promissory notes, and/or goods.

Cumulatively, the cases involving Smith in the records suggest a much more complex trade operation than is generally known. The typical view presented is of Smith obtaining trade goods for his Narragansett customers from the Dutch West India Company, carrying the items to Cocumscussoc and there exchanging them for pelts that he then took back to New Amsterdam and sold, or traded, to the Dutch West India Company. Wilcoxon reminds us Smith's trade enterprise was, in fact, more complex. In addition to his Narragansett customers, it appears Smith also traded, directly or indirectly, with the English residents of Newport and, perhaps, Massachusetts Bay. Hopefully, further study of the New Amsterdam records will reveal a more complete picture of Smith's trading activities.

In addition to her summary of Dutch trade, Wilcoxon also presents a thorough overview of seventeenth century ceramics found in areas of former Dutch commerce and settlement in North America. Wilcoxon's contribution in this area is especially valuable. She brings together information that is otherwise difficult to obtain, some sources found only in Dutch archives and others not published in English.

Archaeology conducted at Cocumscussoc has yielded a broad array of ceramic sherds. Preliminary



work reveals the presence of seventeenth century Chinese porcelain, including *blanc de chine* and Batavian brown washed tea cups and saucers. Also found have been sherds of Rhenish blue and gray stoneware and Bellarmine bottles, German utilitarian wares ubiquitous at Dutch archaeological sites in New York and elsewhere.

Dutch Trade and Ceramics in America in the Seventeenth Century by Charlotte Wilcoxon is published by the Albany Institute of History and Art (www.albanyinstitute.org) and is available through the distributor, State University of New York Press (www.sunypress.edu), \$14.95 in paperback. It can also be ordered through Amazon (www.amazon.com).^{*} The excerpt is printed with permission of the Albany Institute of History and Art. The editors gratefully acknowledge the courteous assistance of Douglas McCombs, curator of history, Allison Munsell, rights and reproductions, and Courtney Troeger, assistant to the director.

^{*}Going to amazon.com via the Smith's Castle website (www.smithscastle.org) earns the Cocumscussoc Association a percentage of the purchase price.

Dutch Trade with Rhode Island

Dutch trading contacts with the area to which they gave the name *Roode Eylant* (Red Island)¹ appear to have begun prior to its settlement in 1636 by Europeans, as part of the ubiquitous Dutch trading operations along the northeastern coastline of North America. A document in the Royal Dutch Archives at the Hague, addressed to the States General by the deputies from New Netherland in July 1649, minces no words in claiming Dutch priorities in the exploration of this area and in the assigning of Dutch place names. It points out that

all the islands, bay, harbors, rivers, kills and places . . . have Dutch names, which were given them, long before they had any others, by our Dutch navigators and traders when they first began to discover and trade to those parts. The English themselves are well aware of this, but as long as they can manage it . . . they will not admit the fact. . . .²

Two of the earliest focal points of Dutch trading interest in the Rhode Island area seem to have been Fort Ninigret, at what is now Charlestown, Rhode Island, and the nearby island of Quetenis. Writing some years ago about the origins of Fort Ninigret, William B. Goodwin had this to say:

In searching the historical archives of the settlement and occupation by the Dutch West India Company, from 1623 to 1674, of that part of New England and New York, originally known as the Dutch New Netherlands, the writer came across two salient excerpts which led him to believe that there must have been a somewhat earlier Dutch trading station and/or fort in the Narragansett Country in Rhode Island than has hitherto been generally accepted.³

Goodwin proceeds to quote from several sources pointing to Dutch ownership of a fort here prior to the Dutch purchase, in 1636-37, of the island called by the Indians "Quetenis." The first of these references is a letter written in 1631 by the Dutch ambassador to England, in which he declares that before 1630 the Dutch had a fort and colony in the Narragansett area "which has been continuously occupied."⁴

This and other documentary sources that he believed pointed to early Dutch settlement at Narra-

gansett Bay prompted Goodwin to apply to the Metropolitan Park Commission for permission to make a test archaeological exploration in the Charlestown area. This produced artifacts that were later identified as Dutch, and Mr. Goodwin concluded "that there is a strong possibility" that the Dutch built Fort Ninigret after 1627 and before 1637 but abandoned it when their trade was disrupted by the war that broke out between the Narragansett and Pequot Indians, around 1635.⁵

Other researchers have disagreed with the opinion that Ninigret was at one time a Dutch fort. Bert Salwen and Susan Mayer, who made a test excavation there in the late 1970s, believe that it was built by the Niantic Indians, who were "obviously in frequent contact with Europeans," and that Ninigret was "primarily a trading center."⁶ Several of the artifacts they recovered there appear to be of Dutch origin, and Paul R. Huey⁷ has identified one of these—a heavily ornamented circlet of brass—as being identical to an artifact recovered from the Dutch ship *Batavia*, which sank in western Australian waters in 1629,⁸ a date consistent with Goodwin's conclusions about the probable period in which the Dutch built Fort Ninigret.

Corroboration of the Dutch purchase of the island Quetenis can be found in several documents preserved at the Hague. In a description of the boundaries of New Netherland written in February 1651, Pieter Stuyvesant claimed for it "the island named Quetenis, lying in Sloop Bay, which was purchased, paid for and taken possession of in the year 1637 on the [West India] Company's account."⁹ A further memoir of the West India Company of December 30, 1654, declared that the Dutchman Abraham Pietersen of Haarlem had occupied Quetenis in 1636 and had taken possession of the surrounding territory in that year.¹⁰ In a protest against the English takeover of New Netherland in 1664, the Dutch reaffirm this, pointing out that Quetenis is "still and at this day called by the English themselves The Dutchman's Island."¹¹

It appears that the trade between the Dutch and the Rhode Island settlers was marked by less tension than that of the Dutch with Connecticut although, as we have seen, the Dutch early laid claim to the territory that is Rhode Island and continued to reiterate this claim. A West India Company review, dated November 5, 1660, of the long-standing problem of English encroachments on Dutch-claimed territory in New England states that the Dutch had taken possession of Rhode Island and surrounding areas in 1636.¹²

Such protests were, however, more in the nature of diplomatic exchanges between the States General and the Court of St. James than actual confrontations between the nationals of these countries in America. When the director at New Amsterdam was vocal in these claims, it was by virtue of his official position as the representative in America of the Dutch West India Company. For their part, the Rhode Islanders, because of their liberal religious and political views, may have been more congenial with the Dutch than with the people of Massachusetts Bay.

Roger Williams founded Providence in 1636 and quickly established a good relationship with the Narragansett Indians. The new colony turned to trade with the Indians as the most immediately available source of income, but traders must have goods to distribute, and these were in short supply. If the well-established merchants of Boston, in spite of their close personal ties with the mercantile fraternity of London, were finding it difficult to obtain supplies, what sources could such outlanders as Williams and his followers hope to tap?

It appears that the answer was the Dutch, and several factors made this feasible. One was the geographical proximity of Rhode Island to Manhattan; another was that the Dutch in their pragmatism were not in the habit of allowing religious or political differences to interfere with trade; and, finally, there was the inclination of the Dutch to trade wherever and whenever an opportunity presented itself.

In 1642 England was in political turmoil. In January of that year the king sent an armed force onto the floor of the House of Commons with orders to arrest Pym, Hampden, and other leaders of the opposition. The English Commons was traditionally off-limits to the king or his agents, and although the men sought were not arrested because they were not there, the unprecedented royal move was the overture to civil war, which broke out a few months later.

In any such struggle the liberal Rhode Islanders would naturally sympathize with the Commonwealth party, but their first need was to secure their own economic survival. Thus, as if on cue, the General Court for Newport, on September 18, 1642,

ordered the governor to "treat with the Dutch to supply us with necessities, and to take of our commodities at such rates as may be suitable."¹³

Thus, throughout the 1640s, because of the tensions in England leading up to the civil war and then the war itself, Rhode Island, like the other New England colonies, had not only more freedom from supervision than it would have had in a more normal era, but also more need to establish markets elsewhere because of England's neglect stemming from its preoccupation with its internal struggle. When from necessity the Rhode Islanders turned to the Dutch, certain prominent Rhode Island merchants and captains took the lead in establishing close trading connections with New Netherland. Carl Bridenbaugh names among these William Coddington, William Brenton, John Underhill, and John Throgmorton, while on the Dutch side he notes Skippers Arent Isaacs and Cornelis Melyn.¹⁴ These names Bridenbaugh took from official Rhode Island records of the period. He declares that "throughout the forties, most of the growing carrying trade between New Netherland and Rhode Island went on in Dutch bottoms."¹⁵

Other names of prominent traders may be culled from extant records of New Netherland. The court and notarial records of the Dutch in New Amsterdam make repeated reference to Captain Jeremy Clarke (he signed his name "Clerk"), a prominent merchant of Newport, and Captain Richard Smith, who, though a resident of Rhode Island, also maintained a house on Manhattan. Smith had first settled in the Plymouth colony, but because of religious differences with his neighbors there, he had subsequently moved to Rhode Island.¹⁶ In these records, the name of the former is usually written "Clercq," while that of the latter appears with the Dutch spelling "Smit." In the register of the secretary of New Netherland there is an agreement between "Captain Jeremias Clerck" and "Jan Domer" (John Dummer, of Boston) signed in New Amsterdam on June 19, 1647, that concerns a note which Dummer had given to Clarke but which subsequently came into the hands of Captain Richard Smith, who had sued Dummer in the New Amsterdam courts. Dummer appears to have commanded a bark and crew that traded along the Atlantic seaboard.¹⁷

In addition to Jeremy Clarke and Richard Smith, whose names appear again and again in the Manhattan records as traders, there was another group of merchants, originally from Boston but sympathetic to the dissenters, who had followed Mrs. Anne Hutchinson to Rhode Island and who almost certainly traded with the Dutch.¹⁸ Another Dutchman, Jochem Kierstede of New Amsterdam, was trading with Rhode Island prior to October 1, 1645, as we

learn from a suit against him filed by Juriaen Blanck and our old friend Thomas Willett, also residents of Manhattan.¹⁹

An item involving mistaken identity in the council minutes of New Netherland for May 2, 1648, shows the casualness with which the Dutch pursued their periodically illegal trade with southern New England. Govert Aertsen, who had gone with his sloop to trade in Rhode Island and Connecticut, was threatened with arrest by the Rhode Island authorities. They had apparently mistaken him for Govert Loockermans, another New Netherland citizen who was accused of selling contraband powder and lead to the Indians of Rhode Island. Aertsen asked the council for a certificate of identity so that he could carry on his Rhode Island trade in safety.²⁰

Although the First Anglo-Dutch War began in May 1652, Rhode Island appears to have continued its usual trade with the Dutch throughout that year and into 1653, when the trade was prohibited.²¹ This prohibition seems to have been unpopular, at least in Providence, where the citizens objected to it heatedly, claiming that they "knew not for what reasons" the decree had been issued.²²

A few Rhode Islanders, however, obviously saw in the war a chance to get rich. These applied for and received commissions from the English government to engage in privateering operations against Dutch shipping. This also disturbed the people of Providence, who, on June 27, 1654, dispatched a letter to Sir Henry Vane complaining about one of these privateers, William Dyre, who seems to have gotten somewhat carried away. They declared that Dyre "plungeth himself and some others, in most unnecessary and unrighteous plunderings, both of Dutch and French and English; all to our grief, who protested against such abuse [privateering permission] from England. . . ." ²³

The war ended in April 1653. It is not recorded when the law against trading with the Dutch was repealed in Providence, but Newport did not repeal it until May 1657, nor did Warwick until May 1658.²⁴ Perhaps the Dutch trade had become a local political issue, which may explain why some towns were tardy in legalizing it, but this is unsupported speculation. On the other hand, it is by no means certain that the Dutch trade with Rhode Island ever entirely stopped during the war years even though it was undoubtedly reduced. Presumably, too, the Naviga-

tion Act of 1651 was still in force, but how much it contributed to restricting the Dutch trade in Rhode Island is problematical. Bridenbaugh says:

And despite the ban on all Dutch traffic with the Indians of Rhode Island during the first Dutch War . . . , John Garious (Garriad, Gariardy, Gerard), possibly a Fleming, who married the sister of John Warner of Warwick, traded for furs with Ezekiel Holliman and John Greene, Jr., on the west shore of the bay. A few Rhode Islanders, notably John Throgmorton (whose name is perpetuated at Throgs Neck in Westchester County), made voyages to Manhattan in their shallops with some regularity.²⁵

The coming of members of the Society of Friends to Rhode Island in 1657 was another factor that contributed to the Dutch trade with that colony, since the Quakers had every reason to dislike and distrust the powerful Massachusetts Bay merchants. In May 1657, the General Assembly of Rhode Island resolved that "the Dutch may have lawfull commerce with the English in this Collony, correspondent to the peace in beinge between the nations."²⁶ The following year, in May, the same General Assembly forbade the seizure of Dutch ships in Narragansett Bay, except by a special order from England or by an order of the General Assembly itself.²⁷

There is every reason to believe that in the 1660s trade between the Dutch and the merchants of Rhode Island proceeded with as much regularity as it had in the previous decade. In 1664 the English seized New Netherland from the Dutch at a time when the two countries were not officially at war, and this sparked the Second Anglo-Dutch War, which was declared in June 1665. The Rhode Islanders continued to trade with Manhattan as if no changes had taken place on the political scene since none had taken place on the mercantile one. The Dutch merchants of Manhattan were still ordering and receiving from Holland and the Wine Islands the consumer goods that the Rhode Islanders, who had a surprisingly high standard of living, preferred, and the latter were still buying these from the Dutch.²⁸ There is no reason to doubt that this trade continued with only minor interruptions through the Third Anglo-Dutch War, which ended in February 1674.

It would seem, therefore, in view of the foregoing documentary evidence, that of all the New England colonies, no other had a more sustained and cordial trade relationship with the Dutch than Rhode Island.

Notes - Chapter 7

1. This, the largest island in Narragansett Bay, was originally called Aquidneck and is now Newport County, according to the Official Gazetteer of Rhode Island, 1932. In Dutch the double "o" is pronounced as in "rode."
2. Edmund B. O'Callaghan, *Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York* (Albany: Weed, Parsons and Co., 1853-1858), 1:285.
3. William B. Goodwin, "Notes Regarding the Origin of Fort Ninigret in the Narragansett Country at Charlestown," *Rhode Island Historical Society Collections* 25 (January 1932): 1. Goodwin gives no citation by which his reference may be verified, and the author has not been able to do so, yet there seems no reason to question the existence of such an English/Dutch diplomatic paper.
4. Goodwin, "Origin of Fort Ninigret," 2.
5. *Ibid.*, 15; Swanton declares that "around" 1635 the Narragansetts, warring with the Pequots, drove them from a small area in Rhode Island that they were occupying. (John R. Swanton, *The Indian Tribes of North America*, Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin, no. 145 [Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, 1952], 32.)
6. Bert Salwen and Susan N. Mayer, "Indian Archaeology in Rhode Island," *Archaeology* 31 (1978): 57-58.
7. Mr. Huey, an archaeologist with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, directed the excavation of Fort Orange (Albany, New York) in 1970-71. He is an authority on seventeenth-century Dutch artifacts.
8. Myra Stanbury, comp., *Batavia Catalog* (Perth, Australia: Western Australian Museum, 1974), BAT. 3132.
9. O'Callaghan, *Colonial History of the State of New York*, 1:544.
10. *Ibid.*, 565.
11. *Ibid.*, 2:409.
12. *Ibid.*, 2:134.
13. John R. Bartlett, ed., *Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, in New England, 1636-1663* (Providence: A. Crawford Greene and Brother, 1856-1865), 1:126.
14. Carl Bridenbaugh, *Fat Mutton and Liberty of Conscience* (Providence: Brown University Press, 1974), 23.
15. *Ibid.*
16. J. Franklin Jameson, ed., *Narratives of New Netherland, 1609-1664* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1909), 266 fn.
17. *New York Historical Manuscripts: Dutch*, vol. 2, *Register of the Provincial Secretary of New Netherland, 1642-1647*, ed. Kenneth Scott and Kenn Stryker-Rodda, and trans. Arnold J. F. van Laer (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 413-14.
18. Bernard Bailyn, *The New England Merchants in the Seventeenth Century* (New York: Harper and Row, 1964), 40-41.
19. *New York Historical Manuscripts: Dutch*, vol. 4, *Council Minutes, 1638-1649*, ed. Kenneth Scott and Kenn Stryker-Rodda, and trans. Arnold J. F. van Laer (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 285.
20. *Ibid.*, 519.
21. Bartlett, *Records of the Colony of Rhode Island*, 1:261.
22. *Ibid.*, 270-71.
23. *Ibid.*, 288.
24. *Ibid.*, 356, 389.
25. Bridenbaugh, *Fat Mutton and Liberty of Conscience*, 23.
26. *Ibid.*, 61.
27. *Ibid.*
28. *Ibid.*, 112.

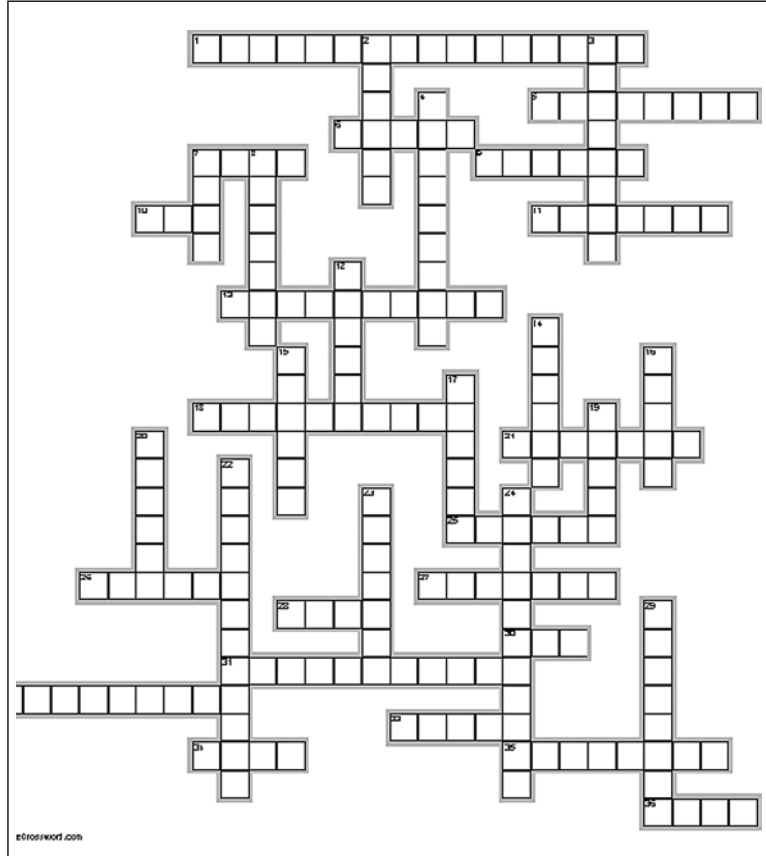
Kids' Corner

This year marks the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's discovery and exploration of the Hudson River in 1609. Many events commemorating the event are taking place throughout New York this summer.

Here is a crossword for older kids created by the New York State Department of Education that will test their knowledge of the Dutch Colonial period.

Across

1. The year 2009 will be the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's third voyage of exploration. It will be a _____ commemoration.
5. The ship Henry Hudson sailed during his 1609 expedition was named the _____.
6. In the mid to late 17th c., the kings of Europe assumed direct control of their colonies thus making them _____ colonies.
7. One goal of Hudson's exploration was to discover a North _____ passage through North America to Asia.
9. Today, the city of _____ is located where the Dutch settlement of Beverwyck once was.
10. In the 1500s beaver _____ became fashionable in Europe.
11. An original source is called a _____ source.
13. The Dutch colony established along the Hudson River was called New _____.
18. _____, a Dutch military post established in 1624 was located just south of where Albany, NY is located today.
21. Hudson's crew traded beads and knives for green _____ grown by the native people of North America.
25. A _____ is a measure of distance equal to about three miles in length.
26. A nautical measurement equal to six feet is called a _____. Sailors use this unit to measure depth.
27. The first mate of Hudson's expedition kept a diary or a _____.
28. Much of what we know about Hudson's 1609 mission comes from his first mate's, Robert _____, journal.
30. On September 4th and 25th, 1609, Robert Juet noted the presence of many tall _____ trees.
31. Hudson's voyage took place during the historical period known as the Age of _____.
32. The _____ is the term given to the time period when Europeans and native peoples of the Americas first began to interact with each other.
33. New York City is located at the _____ of the Hudson River, where it empties into the Atlantic Ocean.



34. On September 30, 1609, Juet's journal notes that a _____ or stiff wind blew between the mountains.
35. The Dutch established a trade relationship with the Haudenosaunee, also known as the _____.
36. In 1664, when the English took control of New Netherland, King Charles II granted this colony to his brother James, Duke of _____.

Down

2. New Netherland became a _____ of England in 1664.
3. Henry Hudson crossed the _____ Ocean as he sailed from The Netherlands to the New World.
4. Manhatas Island is today known as _____.
7. In the 1600s and 1700s, European countries fought _____ for control of the fur trade.
8. On September 11, 1609, Hudson's boat was _____, or came into shallow waters and on to sandbars.
12. Pelts of _____ fur were considered valuable and were sought by the Dutch West India Company.
14. Near the mouth of the Hudson River one can find deep water close to the shore. Such an inlet of protected water where boats can anchor is called a _____.

15. Some of the _____ people of North America were called Iroquois.
16. People of The Netherlands are known as the _____.
17. _____ photographs are taken from high above the land, in the air.
19. According to journals from the 1609 voyage, the native people had plenty of _____ or what the Europeans called "Indian Wheat."
20. According to Robert Juet's September 3rd, 14th, and 15th entries, the Hudson River was full of fish like salmon and _____.
22. The main settlement of the Dutch colony at the mouth of the Hudson River was known as _____.
23. The Dutch government granted a _____ (official permission) to the Dutch West India Company to establish the trade of fish and fur from the New Netherland colony.
24. A Dutch land grant in North America was called a _____. The owner was given title to the land and all the resources upon it. It was similar to a Spanish encomienda.
29. The trade agreement given to the Dutch West India Company granted the company a _____ or total control over colonial trade.

Kids' Corner

Imagine you are an archaeologist at Smith's Castle and you have dug up several small pieces, or shards, of china. You will have to piece them together to see what the object used to be. Maybe you won't have all the pieces, or maybe you have pieces from more than one object.

Cut out these shards and piece them together. Do they match the large plate at the right? It is an 18th-century Dutch polychrome (many colors) charger.

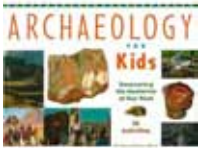
The puzzle is easier to solve in color. Ask your mom or dad to print the color version from the Smith's Castle website.



Return your completed puzzle to:

Smith's Castle
55 Richard Smith Dr.
Wickford, RI 02852

The first correct entry received (black & white or color) will receive a copy of *Archaeology for Kids: Uncovering the Mysteries of our Past, 25 Activities*.



Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Age	



Hearthside Cooking

Enjoy Summer's Sweetness All Year Long

Contributed by Barbara Crudale

Peaches have long been a favorite fruit of many cultures. The fruit originated in China and has been mentioned in Chinese writings since the tenth century B.C. The Persians introduced peaches to the Romans, and the sweet fruit was brought to the Americas by Spanish explorers in the sixteenth century. The American Indians are credited with insuring the spread of the peach tree across the United States and Thomas Jefferson experimented with growing peach trees at Monticello. However, it was not until the nineteenth century that commercial production

of peaches began in Maryland, Delaware, Georgia, and Virginia. Today, peaches are the second largest non-citrus commercial fruit crop in the United States. [Towbridge]

A favorite way to preserve peaches for winter enjoyment in the 1700s was to soak them in brandy, and many cooks still continue this tradition today. Here are three recipes for brandied peaches; the first is from a seventeenth century, the second and third are modern recipes, one uses canned peaches, the other fresh peaches.

Peaches (detail)
Hyaе-bae Kim,
1925–1997.



Preserving Peaches

Put your Peaches in boiling water, and juft give them a Scald, but don't let them boil, take them out and put them in cold Water, then dry them in a Sieve, and put them in long wide mouth Bottles; to half a Dozen Peaches take a quarter Pound of Sugar, clarify it, pour it over your Peaches, and fill the Bottles with Brandy, ftop them clofe, and keep them in a clofe Place.

—from *First Catch your Hare:*
The Art of Cookery Made Plain and Easy
The Cromwell Press, Wiltshire, England, 1995
by Hannah Glasse

Brandied Peaches (using canned peaches)

2, 14-oz. cans cling peach halves in heavy syrup
1 C. brown sugar
1 T. whole cloves
1 t. allspice
1/2 C. cider vinegar
4 T. brandy

Put the peach halves and syrup, lessened by 4 tablespoonful, into a saucepan. Add the sugar, cloves, allspice and vinegar. Bring to a boil. Simmer 8 minutes and cool. Add the brandy. Pierce each peach half with one whole clove. Store in a covered jar in the refrigerator for 24 hours before serving. Yield: Makes 1 quart.

—from www.yankeemagazine.com/recipe/for/brandiedpeaches/10360

Brandied Peaches in Hot Bath

4 lbs. of whole peeled peaches
3 lbs. sugar
1 t. salt
1 qt. boiling water
3/4 C. peach brandy

Dissolve one half of the sugar and the salt in the boiling water. Add one layer of peaches at a time and boil gently for 6 minutes. Peaches will darken if not heated through, but should not cooked until soft. Put heated peaches in deep bowl; boil syrup 5 minutes and pour over fruit. Cover bowl and let stand overnight. Drain syrup into sauce pot, add remaining sugar, boil 5 minutes and pour back over peaches. Next day, pack peaches into hot jars, leaving 1/2 inch head space. Add 3 or 4 tablespoons of brandy to each jar. Boil syrup until thick, like warm honey. Pour hot syrup over peaches, leaving 1/4 inch head space. Remove air bubbles. Adjust caps. Process 10 minutes in boiling water bath. Peaches should be ready to use in about a month. Yield: 3 pints.

—from *Ball Blue Book:*
The guide to home canning and freezing.
Ball Corporation, Muncie, Indiana, 1989.

Stays, Corsets, and Undergarments through the Centuries

Kristel Henry

As a historical re-enactor, I am often quietly asked about “indelicate” subjects. As most people have difficulty imagining what our ancestors might have worn beneath their often elaborate clothing, one of the most common questions concerns undergarments. This article, addresses the topic of “unmentionables.” While it generally discusses undergarments for both men and women from the seventeenth through the nineteenth centuries, it specifically focuses on the subject of corsetry.

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, men’s undergarments typically consisted of a linen shirt and gartered stockings. Some men, including Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, wore *drawers* under their breeches for warmth, but most men simply wore long linen shirts that came down to mid-thigh and tucked into the breeches to keep them clean. Knit stockings of wool or silk were pulled up over the knee, and generally gartered below the knee

just beyond the bottom of the breeches. Most men slept in their shirts as well. During the nineteenth century long trousers became popular, and under-drawers and undershirts became much more common items for men.

Similarly, in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries women’s undergarments consisted of a linen shift and gartered stockings. For women, the shift was a shirt-like garment that fell to just below the knees. In the seventeenth century the shift usually had some type of collar and the sleeves were long. In the eighteenth century the shift had a much lower scoop neckline and the sleeves covered the elbows. Stockings were the same as men’s stockings and were gartered either

just above or just below the knee. Most female re-enactors find that gartering below the knee keeps them in place much more readily. Many people are shocked to discover that, although some women in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries may have worn knee length drawers for dancing or riding, most women did not wear underpants as we know them today and relied on their shift and numerous petticoats for modesty.



Right: Early nineteenth century stays meant to be worn beneath high-waisted Empire-style dresses. The longer set has a gusseted bust and a pocket in front for a wooden busk. Courtesy of the Kyoto Museum, Japan.



1700

Eighteenth century silk damask stays, front lacing. The style is similar to seventeenth century stays. Courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Transitional 1830s cotton drill stays, no front busk. From the collection of L. Hidic. Courtesy of Antique Corset Gallery.



White cotton woven corset, styled as in the 1840s and '50s with a buskless front and boned triangular gussets over bust and hips. From the collection of L. Hidic. Courtesy Antique Corset Gallery.

In the nineteenth century, shifts, now called chemises, had short or cap sleeves, and *pantal-ettes* became much more common for modesty, especially under the hoop skirts of the 1860s. Pantallettes usually consisted of two legs attached at the waist (split rather than attached in the center) and adjusted with a drawstring at the waist, or a button at the back. No doubt this made utilizing the out-house much more convenient for the ladies.

The corset is one of the most controversial garments in the entire history of fashion. Today, some regard it as a horrid assault on women's bodies, the cause of fainting spells, general ill health, and even death. True, there were times when its body sculpting features were carried to the extreme, and in those cases the corset might appropriately have been considered an assault on women's bodies. However, the extreme does not present an accurate view of the garment, and it is historical accuracy that the re-enactor must be concerned with in spite of current "bad press."

From the late Renaissance to the early twentieth century, stays and corsets were an essential element of fashionable women's attire. Despite its current reputation, for most of its history the corset had

generally positive associations regarding social status, respectability, self discipline, beauty, and attractiveness. Working-class women as well as middle- and upper-class women wore corsets. Aristocratic women more often "tight laced" in order to be fashionable, than did the working or middle class.

In the past, these foundation garments were not called corsets but rather a *pair of bodies* or *stays* in the seventeenth century, and simply *stays* in the eighteenth century. In the seventeenth century, stays generally had straps, tabs over the hips, and often were spirally laced (using one lacing string) in both front and back, with or without a *stomacher* in front. A stomacher was simply a triangular piece that was inserted behind the lacing in the front of the stays. Decorated stomachers were also used as the front pieces to ladies gowns, which will be discussed in a later issue.

Later in the eighteenth century, back lacing (still spiral laced using one lacing string) strapless stays became popular for the middle and working classes. Stays were typically characterized as fully boned (bones inserted in every channel) or partially boned (bones inserted in every other channel or in strategically placed channels).

Partially boned stays or *jumps* may have been used more by working women or for informal dress. Jumps were more or less a quilted type of waistcoat, but were used at home by women who were ill, infirm, or expecting, or at the very least, not receiving visitors. A sleeved outer garment was generally worn over the jumps. Jumps were not the *bodice* worn by many re-enactors that is not a documented style from the time. Stays were boned with baleen (aka whalebone), horn, buckram, or wood caning. Many women also used a busk made of wood, baleen, horn, or bone inserted in the center front of their stays in order to keep it straighter. The silhouette of a woman's torso was conical, with the waist brought in slightly and the bust flattened and moved upward. Straps on the stays helped to hold the shoulders down and to push them back making the posture very straight. Over the shift and corset (and sometimes an under petticoat) various hip enhancements were often worn by middle-to-upper class women.

In the seventeenth century, a *rump roll* to fill out the hips was often worn. By the 1740s and 1750s, wide *panniers* were common for dress occasions. Several decades after that, *Pocket hoops* were popular until hip pads or rump rolls again became popular in the 1770s and 1780s.

—continued on page 14



An 1860s short corset, back lacing with front metal busk. From the collection of L. Hidic. Courtesy of Antique Corset Gallery.



An 1895 diagonal seam corset, back lacing with a brass front fastening spoon busk. From the collection of L. Hidic. Courtesy of Antique Corset Gallery.



A 1908 s-bend corset, back lacing with front fastening metal busk. From the collection of L. Hidic. Courtesy Antique Corset Gallery.

1900



1770s back-lacing, straped stays, worn over a linen shift and "nanners" boned with cane or baleen. Courtesy Victoria and Albert Museum.

The shape of most corsets was consistent throughout much of the nineteenth century, with some changes to the shape of the busk in front during the 1880s. However, a radical design change, an "s curve," appeared in the early twentieth century. It sometimes caused the wearer's lower back to arch uncomfortably.

Contrary to popular belief, no doubt perpetuated by the media, tight lacing was relatively uncommon during the American Civil War in the 1860s. (Picture Scarlet O'Hara holding onto the



Eighteenth century reproduction strapless, back-lacing stays worn over linen shift. Photo by author.

war, eventually giving way to the bustles of the 1870s.

While women began to abandon traditional corsets for more modern styles of undergarments roughly about the time of the First World War, corsets have always been present in some form or other since that time.



Mid-nineteenth century reproduction corset, back lacing with front fastening metal busk. Photo by author.

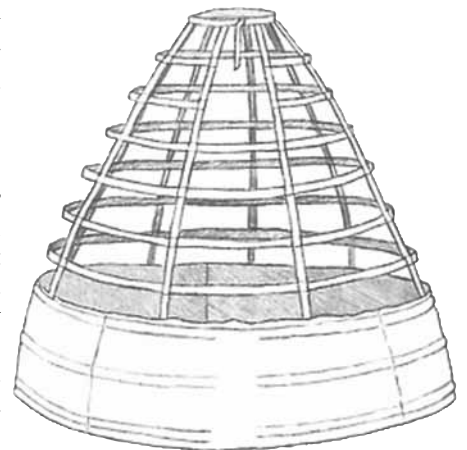
During the course of the nineteenth century, corsets underwent several style changes. In the early 1800s, corsets became softer, many being corded instead of boned. Often they were longer on the torso and gusseted on the hips and bust, to accommodate Empire-style fashions. They had straps and laced up the back using double laces with a pocket in front for a busk. The nineteenth century torso silhouette changed from the conical shape of the previous century. It was gusseted on bust and hips, creating the hourglass figure popular throughout most of the nineteenth century. In 1848, steel slot and stud fastening for the two part busk (still used in reproduction corsets) was patented. It worked so well that after 1850 virtually all corsets used it. It was convenient in the event of "swooning, vapours, oppressions, and spasms."

bed post while her corset is being tightly laced.) However, in the later decades of the nineteenth century, extremely tight lacing did become more of a phenomenon with fashionable ladies, and was often harshly criticized for causing health problems.

In addition to corsets, women in the mid-nineteenth century increasingly wore multiple, stiffer petticoats (sometimes stiffened with horsehair) to achieve the fashionable, full-skirted look.

During the 1860s, what was generally referred to as a *cage crinoline* (hoops of flexible steel attached with vertical tapes, that were either left bare or covered with fabric) became immensely popular. During the Civil War, some female refugees lamented being without their hoops, and thus dreadfully out of fashion. The hoops became more elliptical in shape toward the end of the

Most people find it difficult, if not impossible, to believe that corsets and hip enhancements/skirt supports can be comfortable. Tight lacing can, of course, cause temporary health issues. A woman may experience shallow breathing because she cannot expand her



A 1858 round cage crinoline. Image courtesy of Truly Victorian.

lungs or diaphragm easily, and fainting is sometimes the result. Her internal organs may be temporarily shifted so she may not be able to eat as heartily as normal and indigestion can occur. Also, the lacing can put pressure upon the spine, and heavy boning can create pressure and even cause bruising.

Why not play it safe and simple loosely lace the corset? You might well ask. A corset must be laced snugly to be comfortable. If stays or corsets are too loose they will rub under the arms or elsewhere. They may not support the bust, and may cause discomfort or bruising. From personal experience, problems usually arise when stays are laced so tightly that it is difficult to catch a breath when walking and speaking at the same time, or when the bottom of the corset puts undue pressure on the nerves in the lumbar spine. Usually these issues can be easily remedied by a slight adjustment that will not noticeably affect the fit or appearance of the outer garment.

Despite stays or corsets being laced rather tightly, women's waists are not reduced significantly in eighteenth-century stays, and may be reduced only moderately (by two-three inches) in a mid-nineteenth century corset. Plump women can achieve more significant waist reduction by displacing flesh, than can slim women. Women who achieve significant reductions in waist measure generally achieve this result through regular training, rather than occasionally wearing a corset for living history presentations, for example.

When worn sensibly a corset is not necessarily unsafe, unhealthy, or uncomfortable. It can provide wonderful back support if it is necessary to stand for any length of time, to lift heavy objects, or to sit on a backless stool or bench. However, it would be advisable for anyone with health concerns to consult a physician prior to donning any kind of corsetry. ■

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www.antiquecorsetgallery.com

Originals by Kay
ready made and custom nineteenth century clothing and undergarments, including corsets
www.originals-by-kay.com

Laughing Moon Mercantile
nineteenth century patterns
www.lafnmoon.com

Timeless Stitches
Civil War era undergarments
www.tstitches.com

Truly Victorian
nineteenth century patterns
www.trulyvictorian.com

This is the second in a series of articles on clothing that typically would have been worn by the seventeenth-, eighteenth-, and nineteenth-century residents of Smith's Castle.

Look for *Eighteenth Century Women's Jackets and Gowns* in the Fall issue.

About the Author



Kristel Henry is a historical reenactor with a particular interest in clothing design and construction. For the past several years she has been a member of the Pawtuxet Rangers RIM, as well as a Civil War era civilians' organization, and is often seen as a volunteer at Smith's Castle special events. Over the past six years she has informally studied seventeenth to nineteenth century clothing construction, with a particular emphasis on the eighteenth century, and often makes her own reproduction clothing. Kristel holds a BA in English literature from Rhode Island College, and currently serves as director of human resources for a non-profit healthcare institution. She lives with her husband in West Kingston, Rhode Island.

Tea on the Fly



Smith's Castle's
Brown Family Fly
Tea Table, 1768.

New to Smith's Castle this season is an eighteenth-century tea table. We have begun researching this table's style and origins in order to develop an interpretive story for staging.

Today we call them tilt-top tables, but in the eighteenth century they were known as "fly tables." The auctioneer from whom we purchased the table had identified it simply as *"Late eighteenth/Early nineteenth Century. Probably Rhode Island."* That description, however, places the table's date of construction slightly later than a label on underside that reads, *"This table came into possession of my family in 1768, Chas. W. Brown."* The question of when and where the table was made has not been resolved.

A search on the internet quickly yielded some answers. The table looks precisely like many that have sold or are for sale that are attributed to Newport cabinet-maker John Goddard and made about 1750 to 1785. The 1768 date of our table is spot on.

This specific form of table was researched exhaustively by Dr. Patricia Kane of Yale University for a 1999 article. [Kane: ?] Kane makes several observations that are particularly relevant to the Smith's Castle's table.

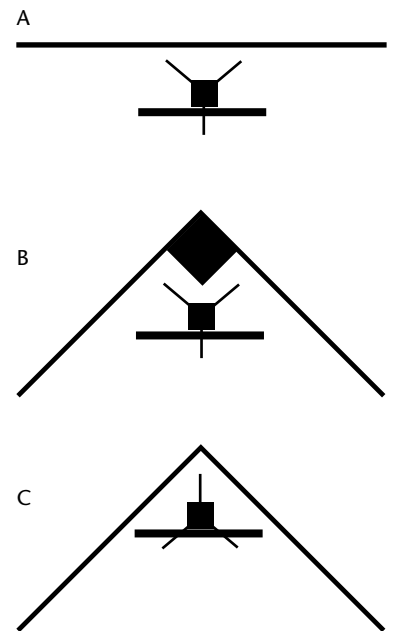
Dr. Kane calls this type of table the "standard Newport fly tea table," describing it as having "a columnar pillar supported by serpentine legs ending in snake or very small paw feet. The serpentine legs on these tables are plain with no shaping on the undersides where they meet the pillar, although the sides of some of the legs have shallow indentations." This describes our table perfectly).

Kane notes that eleven examples of this type of table were then (1999) known. She was able to examine four of the eleven and to closely inspect six others from photographs. She determined that they were made by different craftsmen and probably in more than just one shop. So much for a firm attribution to John Goddard!

She observes that design elements of these tables reflect the architectural environment in Newport, in particular, Peter Harrison's designs for the Redwood Library. The Redwood's restrained Doric columns are nearly identical to the simple turned pillars on the standard Newport fly table. Serendipitously, the pillar on our table also mimics an architectural feature at Smith's Castle, the turned newel posts on the front hall staircase (see sp. 18). Attorney General Daniel Updike, who renovated the Castle to its current configuration, c. 1730, was a founder of the Redwood Library.

Dr. Kane also makes an observation that is important in staging

these pieces. The tops on Newport fly tables tilt only; i.e. they do not rotate like the tables that have a bird-cage mechanism. When not in use, the top is tilted up so that the tripod base will have either one leg extending in front of the table top or one behind it. The buyer would need to know which configuration to order based on where the table was to be placed in his house. A table like the Castle's with one foot extending forward had the most flexibility. It could be placed against a flat wall or it could be nestled into a corner with a post, the legs in back straddling the corner post. A table with one foot extending behind, could be placed in only one area, a void corner, which was rare in most colonial post-and-beam houses.



Positioning the fly table, bird's-eye view. A. wall; B. corner with post; C. void corner

—continued on page 18

Yale University Rhode Island Furniture Archive

Dr. Patricia E. Kane, Friends of American Arts Curator, American Decorative Arts, Yale University Art Gallery, is directing a long-term study of furniture making in colonial and early Federal Rhode Island, building upon the Gallery's rich holdings of Rhode Island furniture. The purpose of this project is to construct a history of the furniture trade throughout Rhode Island in the colonial and early Federal periods. The results of the study will be presented in a website, an interpretive publication, and exhibition. The information generated by the study will be useful to individuals with an interest in American material culture including curators, historians, art historians, architectural historians, economists, collectors, and conservators.

The Research

In the literature on American furniture, no subject has had more sustained scholarly interest than Rhode Island furniture making during the eighteenth century. Work on the topic has been ongoing for a century. However, most of the existing literature has focused on the elaborate furniture made in Newport between 1740 and 1780 with some attention given to the work of Providence makers. Checklists of known Rhode Island makers have been published in various periodicals and scholarly journals. Important and useful as these investigations have been, they have not been based on a systematic examination of primary documents nor have they established an all-inclusive resource of furniture attributed to Rhode Island makers.

Yale's study will be the first comprehensive investigation of Rhode Island furniture makers and their production from the seventeenth century through the close of the eighteenth century. The results of this study will enable us to provide insights for an important early American trade and its ability to harness skills and use raw materials to make products for all aspects of daily life.

Beginning in 2003, Patricia Kane and Dennis Carr, formerly a graduate student at Yale and now Assistant Curator in the Department of the Americas at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, have undertaken the document research for this project. Having compiled a list of approximately 300 known makers drawn from secondary literature, they have expanded the number of makers to more than 1,200 through systematic research in the land, probate, and court records. They have compiled published data on furniture that has been identified as being made in Rhode Island and have developed a test

database for the information on the furniture and the makers. They have also developed field research techniques for consistent information gathering on surviving furniture. The database will be available on the world wide web in 2010 and an exhibition is being organized at the Art Gallery for 2013.

The Archive seeks information on unpublished examples of Rhode Island furniture, which can be sent to Patricia Kane at patricia.kane@yale.edu or Yale University Art Gallery, P.O. Box 208271, New Haven, Connecticut 06520-8271 (203-432-0615).



Pillar on Brown family tea table

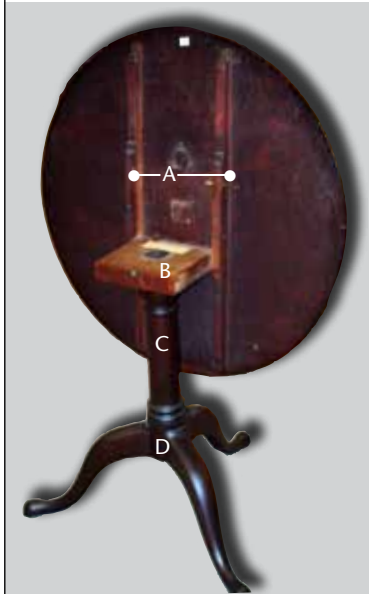


Smith's Castle stair baluster post



Doric column on Redwood Library

Anatomy of a Newport fly tea table



- A. Stepped cleat
- B. Stationary block (no bird cage, top does not rotate).
- C. Simple columnar pillar
- D. Plain serpentine legs with snake or small paw feet

Louise Duckworth, the Smith's Castle collections coordinator, has begun staging our recent acquisition for visitors. Currently, the table is located in a protected corner of the upstairs eighteenth-century bedchamber, also known as the Updike bedchamber. On it is displayed an eighteenth-century, rose-pattern Chinese-export porcelain tea set (below), as if the Updikes are soon to entertain important guests.

On the panelled wall above the fireplace hangs a reproduction of the c.1740 Potter family overmantle depicting the John Potter family of Matunuck at tea time. They use their best porcelain with delicate handleless cups, wear their finest apparel, and are served by a young slave boy. The painting affords docents the opportunity to present the social custom of tea, the habit of entertaining guests in bedchambers, and the role of slaves in South County. Attorney General Daniel Updike, whose 1757 probate inventory lists nineteen slaves, notes a tea table in his bedroom, as well as another "tea table and chaney" [china] in the great room.

Future plans call for the acquisition of a reproduction tea set that

will be substituted for the period china. This will allow the table to be relocated next to the fireplace where water for the tea would have been heated, and adjacent to the overmantle. The period china will be moved to the safety of the closet to the left of the fireplace. Likely, this was originally a tea closet. Valuable ceramics were stored in tea closets adjacent to fireplaces, an area not susceptible to freezing.

—Neil Dunay

Further Reading

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The Smith's Castle Archive

Elaine Robinson

A lot has happened in the archive lately. At the annual meeting two members volunteered to help out and they seem to be enjoying themselves. They keep coming back. Carol Greenwell is organizing the filing cabinet folder by folder. She found a file recently with photos of Norman Isham and his restoration project. Karen Pizzarusso is working on binders full of Trustee meeting minutes. The original meetings were fascinating. Those people were driven.

Evan Usler (right) is back more frequently now that he has graduated. He will be going to Texas this fall for conservation studies at the University of Texas, which means we're going to lose him. That's bad. What are we going to do without him?

We acquired a new volunteer this week, Beth Russell a former cataloger for the Ships Plans Library at Mystic Seaport. She's doing a lot of work at home and coming to the Annex to enter the data in Past Perfect.

I even got my husband ?? to come in and work on slides.

Frank Boffi has made a huge contribution to our archive. He removed the big desk that took up so much space and built additional shelving. Everything is neat and orderly and looks like an actual archive. We are making so much progress.

Next week, Marc Calhoun, preservationist at the RISD library, has agreed to demonstrate how clam-shell storage boxes for books are made. Our plan is to insure that the rare books are in archival storage containers.

Finally, the new computer is in. Now it will be much more convenient to enter data and insure our cataloging efforts stay on track. ■

Editors' Note: Ever since Elaine Robinson joined former Collections Chair Linda Eppich on a project for a URI library science class (Castle Chronicle, vol. 14, no. 1, Spring 2005), she has been tirelessly working to document, organize, catalogue, and stabilize the diverse collection of items that make up the Smith's Castle archive. She secured the grant from Amica Insurance that enabled the new computer to be purchased. While she generously notes the contributions of the volunteers who are helping her, it is entirely due to her professional leadership that the archive is now a well-organized, eminently usable resource, and a huge credit to the Cocomuscussoc Association.

Evan Usler



In January 2008, I gave my best recruiting speech to a group of University of Rhode Island Library Science students and was successful in persuading Evan Usler to come help out. Evan has made an enormous contribution to the archive, especially considering he has been

going to school (for two master's degrees—Library and Information Sciences and Public Administration), working full-time, and doing an internship at Brown University at the same time! The work he has done in one and a half years is truly amazing.

Evan's first project was putting the photographs contained in dozens of decades-old albums with sticky wax pages into proper storage. Ninety percent of the photographs are now in archival storage and most are labeled. Evan also organized a bag of photographs relating to the 1990s restoration conducted by architect Jack Renshaw. When Jack came looking for photos for a lecture, he found what he needed in just a few minutes because they were so well arranged and labeled.

Also, Evan has been monitoring the archive's environment for heat and humidity for the last few months. We researched the standards suggested by the Library of Congress and the New England Document Conservation Center. The results of his work indicate that even though the environment isn't perfect, it is within reasonable limits and surprisingly stable.

Evan is productive even when he can't get to the Castle. This winter, when his schedule was particularly hectic, he wrote a grant for the Ott Fund which provides money for preservation and storage. Evan has used the Castle archive as the subject of several classes. He worked on a disaster recovery plan for his Archives Management class and a preservation plan for another class. And those are just the big things!

The bad news is Evan is leaving the first week of August to study conservation at the University of Texas. We really are going to miss him, but we wish him the best of luck. Because of Evan, our archive actually looks like an archive rather than a storeroom. Researchers can come to use our resources and will find photographs that have been professionally processed and easy to use.

— Elaine Robinson

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Upcoming at Smith’s Castle

July

Day	Time	Event
Saturday, 11	9:00 a.m.	Docent meeting

August

Day	Time	Event
Saturday, 8	9:00 a.m.	Docent meeting
Saturday, 16	tbd	Summer member party

September

Day	Time	Event
Saturday, 19	9:00 p.m.	Docent meeting

