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## NEWSLETTER

*JANUARY 2015*

As the year drew to a close we looked back to a very satisfying and productive year.

Our general membership has increased in numbers and we have added 24 corporate sponsors. Our sincere thanks to all. We value all our members and hope more of you will become more actively involved in our activities. We need people to help with projects at the Arnold House. With more participation we can broaden the scope of our society and complete ongoing projects.

To review some of our activities during the past year:

- Annual Scholarship Presentation
- Maintained our display case at City Hall
- Informational display table at Warwick Mall
- Presentations at local Assisted Living facilities
- Scheduled presentations at the Warwick Library
- Spearheaded the formation of the Alliance of Rhode Island Historical Societies
- Hosted the Stukely Westcott Family Association bi-annual visit to RI
- In collaboration with the Warwick Cemetery Commission established the Stukely Westcott Cemetery #165 as the first public cemetery in Warwick
- Hosted visits from the Greene, Arnold and Holden family groups
- Updated our website and expanded our Facebook page
- Accepted the citation from the RI Heritage Hall of Fame on behalf of Col Randall Harrington of Rocky Point
- Conducted a genealogy seminar
- Participated in Historical Cemetery clean-ups
- Encouraged and supported our three resident authors Henry AL Brown, Robert Geake and Roberta Humble who had books published during the year-Henry and Robert also donated copies of their books to sell in the gift shop.

- Received many donations throughout the year, the largest from the Westcott family, as well as a matchbook collection from Bob Chorney, and milk bottles from Henry Brown, Ed Greer and Bob Chorney
- Received many other donations too numerous to list here-a complete list is available at the Arnold House
- Scanned many photos and documents, the largest collections from Jean Knowles [Carder Tavern] and Chet Browning, archivist for the airport. Again too numerous to list them all here-a complete list is available at the Arnold House
- Conducted two successful raffles as fund raisers-complete list of winners available at the Arnold House
- Received orders for Memorial Bricks to be laid in the Spring
- Received a Champlin grant to be used for four major projects at the Arnold House-two are complete [exterior painting and storm windows]
- Had our first Paranormal Event-hopefully more to come
- Published four Newsletters
- Oversaw the Maureen Callahan Scholarship Fund, Madaleine Toy Fund and the Ed Greer Fund-donations to all three are accepted at any time.

Earlier last year we lost two long standing supporters Shirley Nordquist and Ed Greer and most recently Jeff Gofton and Elsie Williams. Elsie was the youngest charter member in 1932 and was the last of our charter members at 105. She had published a genealogy book on a branch of the Williams family earlier this year and was working on another. She also wrote the booklet on the history of the Arnold House that is available in our gift shop.

Looking forward, Felicia will be presenting “Quahogs and Carousels” at the Warwick library on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. We have a list of speakers lined up for the spring and will let you know the schedule as soon as the dates are confirmed.

Our display case at City Hall currently contains Bob Chorney’s matchbook collection of Warwick businesses, many of which no longer exist, and will remain until March.

Again we urge all of our members and their families and friends to become more active in the activities of our society. Join us any Wednesday or the second Saturday of the month between 11 and 2. Browse the library and gift shop. You never know when the “itch” will strike and you find yourself involved in a project.

**Please support our sponsors.**

Our best wishes again for a safe, healthy and Happy New Year.

*Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forward---Kierkegaard*

## SPRING GREEN FARM WINDMILL 1926 TO 2014

Upon the European trip, 1926, of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Hail Brown his Alice Francis owner of Spring Green farm hired & appointed my father, Francis Hail Brown, as manager of Spring Green Farm.

Gaspee Point or High Banks with its summer campers was one of the many operations required to manage the estate of 400 acres, water front camp-sights in particular with access to the beach were choice sights over looking Narragansett Bay were quickly developed. Camp leased sights in 1926 numbered less than 120, but with father management grew to 300 at the time of his death in 1950.

Management problems multiplied with an increase of campers. Health concerns were addressed with a supply of fresh water supplied by deep three wells adjacent to a small pond, 25 feet deep, with adjacent towering windmill with a 1200 gallon Cyprus-wood tank gravity feeding water to the campers. When the wind blew the tin vanes atop the mill, it in turned, caught wind emitting a force to operated a pump to draw water from the wells. As Murphy's Law dictates the mill often failed to provide water----no wind often time, bad connections, vacuum failed to draw water, a drought with a low water table. etc. In 1927/8 electricity came to the camp ground and with it a line to the mill. A small shed housed the "Duro" pump pushing water into the tank. Within the tank a ball valve & float opened & closed. A signal to the pump water to maintain a steady flow of water. A spider web of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " galvanized pipe interspersed every 100 feet a draw off valves. A great connivance from earlier gathers of water that was obtained from natural flowing springs, emitting from beneath the High Bank, but carried a long distance.

Soon following WW2, 1946, water usage outstripped the volume consumed by the campers. A 2 inch galvanized water line was run from Spring Green Road, near the entrance to the farm, 3500-2500 feet into the camp ground. Here summer campers could connect to a steady indoor supply to a kitchen, & bath room.

State and city regulations required in door flush toilets closing down all outhouses within the city by 1948/9. My father worked to obtain city water [Situare water] that was installed a 6 inch water line "Johns-Manville transite" by Byron Jordan<sup>1</sup>, contractor, throughout camp ground with fire hydrants throughout.

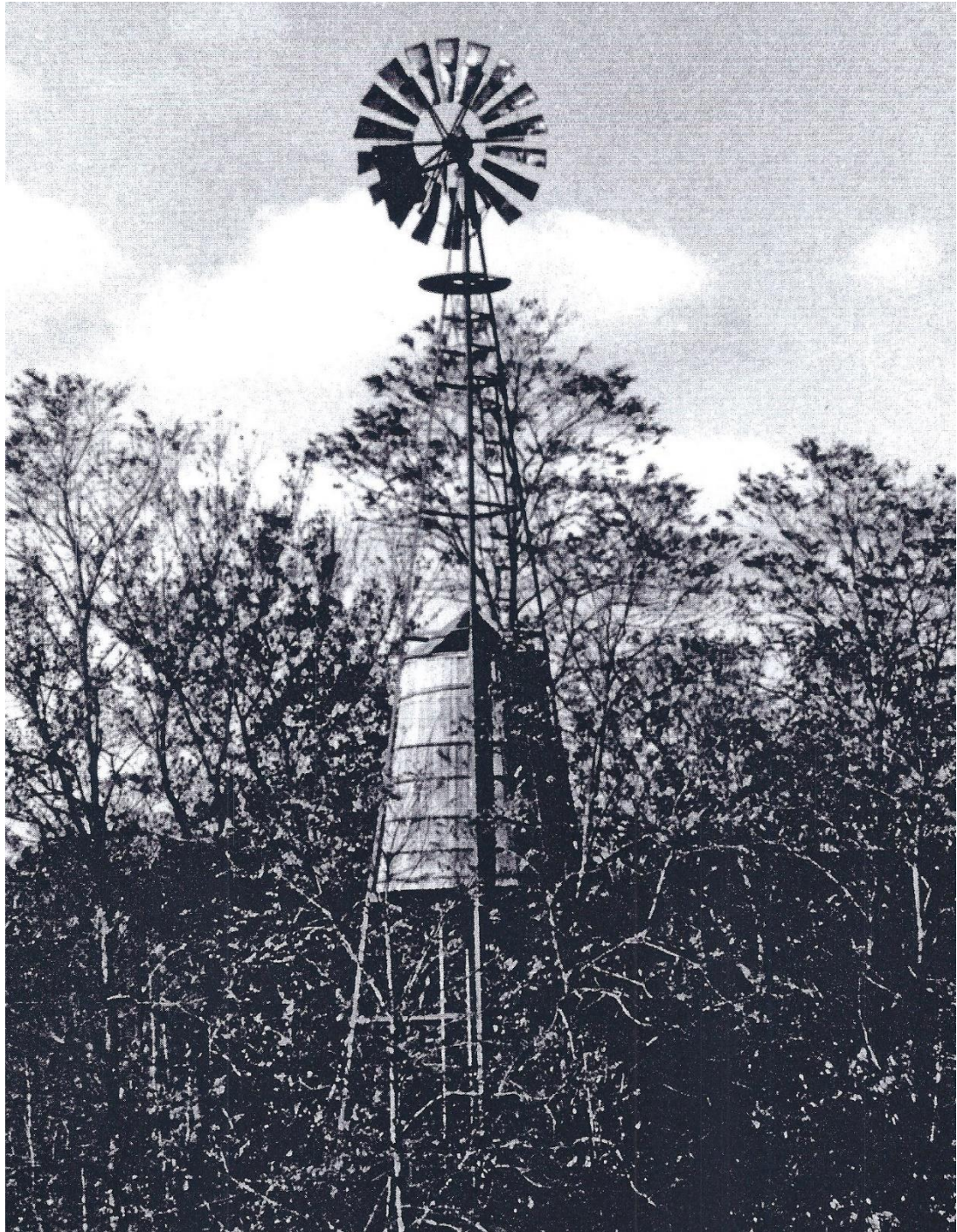
The windmill was a relics having been abandoned in 1946 but saw new life in 1958 when it was transported in three sections to my sister pond. I having begun a small plant nursery & moved the wind mill to Spring Green farm adjacent to a pond on the property of Elizabeth F. Brown, to irrigated yew, juniper & Rhododendron plants. My expanded business, Governor Francis Nursery, dealt with large a volume of plant material & water thus the system not adequate was abandoned.

In the 1980/90's my sisters 2<sup>nd</sup> husband, Phyllip Holton attempted to silence the squeaking & turning of the directional head by destroying the metal tail that kept the vanes upwind to gather wind. He with a heavy gage pistol shot the tail off, but photographically captured the abandoned stately tower & tank. The windmill has been a home to raccoons and now encumbered with vines of honeysuckle & bittersweet.

HENRY A. L. BROWN 2014

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<sup>1</sup> Byron Jordon, general contractor, & foreman Barney Reynolds, constructed all the roads, ketch basins, & water lines at Governor Francis Farms a subdivision of the Spring Green Farm from 1938 to 1953.



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