

## *NEWSLETTER*

*October 2016*

Greetings to all from the Board.

It has been a busy summer. Since we participated in Gaspee Days we have held our Annual Open House in June, held two open meetings at the library, had a booth at the Conimicut Festival, held a Paranormal event at Arnold House, and recently a painting class and participation in Smithsonian Museum Day. The two events at the library were especially gratifying since both events were standing room only. Many thanks to Pegee Malcolm and the Warwick Cemetery Commission and Henry AL Brown and the Friends of Warwick Pond for outstanding presentations.

Many thanks to Judy Jencks and Carolyn Payne for maintaining our gardens all summer. They worked diligently regardless of weather. They could certainly use some help so please consider volunteering to lend them a hand.

The **Display Case** at City Hall has been changed. We now have our collection of old political buttons on display. They will remain until after the November election.

Work has begun on our **chimney**. It has been pointed and will soon be sealed, and a liner and cap installed. This is the last of our restoration projects for the time being.

We appreciate the support of all our business sponsors. Our two most recent are **Classic Chimney** and **Washington Trust Bank**. The bank also has a spotlight on business program that featured us this month.



Another of our sponsors, the Krafty Sisters, provided us with a brief bio to acquaint you with their store. "**Krafty Sisters** has been in business for 21 years, 16 of those years with a store front in Coventry, RI. We started out selling our homemade crafts at craft shows and expanded into our own store whereby we not only sell our items but offer consignment terms to other local crafters. Stop in and see us some time and check us out on facebook. We offer no fee layaway and free gift bagging year round."

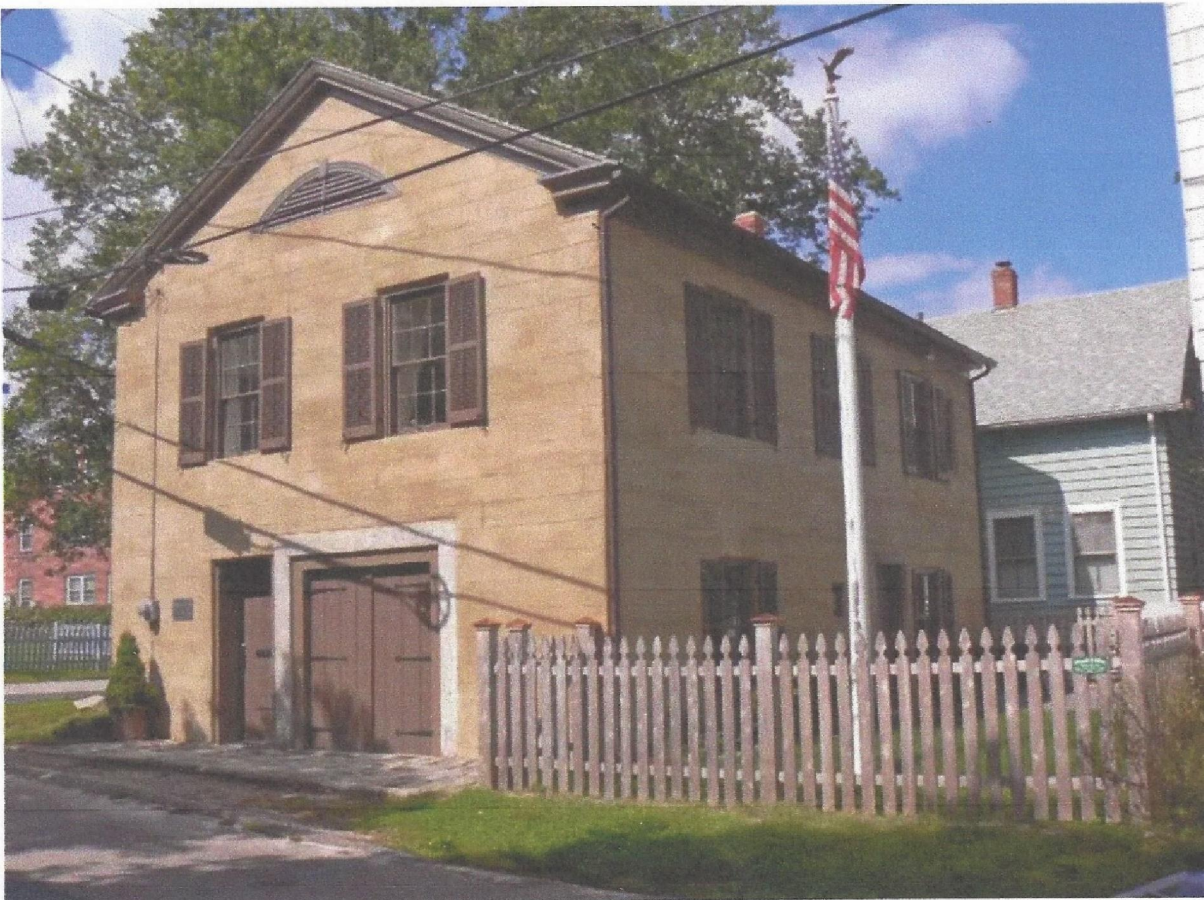


See a complete list of our business sponsors that follows.

We are currently collaborating with the city to re-establish a **Plaque Program** that fell by the wayside many years ago. The plan is to select buildings of historical significance around the city and have a bronze plaque erected on those sites. It seems only fitting that in light of the city's designation this year as a Preserve America Community and Heritage Tourism Destination, that we call attention to our rich heritage in this manner. The first plaque will be presented to the Pawtuxet Armory on November 6 at 1 pm, open to the public. There will be a brief reception by the Pawtuxet Rangers at that time.

See [www.preserveamerica.gov](http://www.preserveamerica.gov)

## Armory





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Armory Hall, home of the Pawtuxet Rangers, R.I.M., was built by the State of Rhode Island in 1843 for the Rangers following the Dorr Rebellion.

The building, located at the corners of Remington and Bank Streets, on the Warwick side of the Village, is built of "rubble stone" with a smooth cement, or stucco exterior that was scored to look like large stone blocks. The building was later coated with traditional "rough surface" stucco.

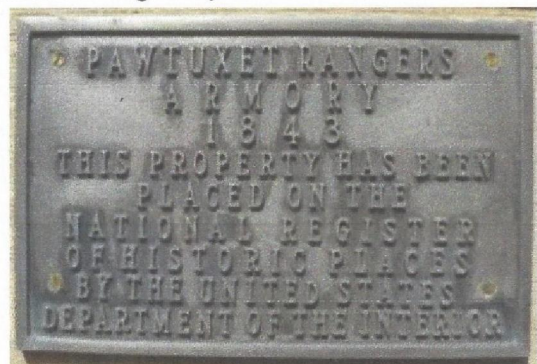
Available records indicate that, although the building was two stories in height, no second floor or internal partitions were included. The building was a large room, open from the dirt floor to the rafters. The building was used primarily for the storage of the equipment of the Pawtuxet Artillery, which was the name of the Company after 1812, and as a drill floor during the winter months. The large door on the front side of the building was used to allow the storage of the field pieces belonging to the Artillery

The Pawtuxet Artillery was de-activated in 1847, and the Armory Hall was sold to Harmony Lodge No. 9 of Pawtuxet for their meeting hall. At this time, a second floor was added. The second floor was converted to a Lodge meeting hall, including appropriate moldings, and the ceiling was plastered in a vaulted style and covered with wallpaper reminiscent of the Masonic symbols. This ceiling, accessible through the attic, remains today.

The first floor, with the large double doors, was used by the local volunteer fire company (later incorporated in 1891 as the Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 of Pawtuxet) for the storage of their hose cart and other equipment. It appears that an asphalt covering was put in over the dirt floor at this time.

The building was sold as a private residence in 1906 and converted into two living areas by Rufus Sprague, whose name still appears on the wall of the building.

The Rangers purchased the building in 1985, and began a two-year restoration project. The Armory Hall was re-dedicated on 15 July, 1989 to its original purpose as a military armory.



Our other future scheduled activities are:

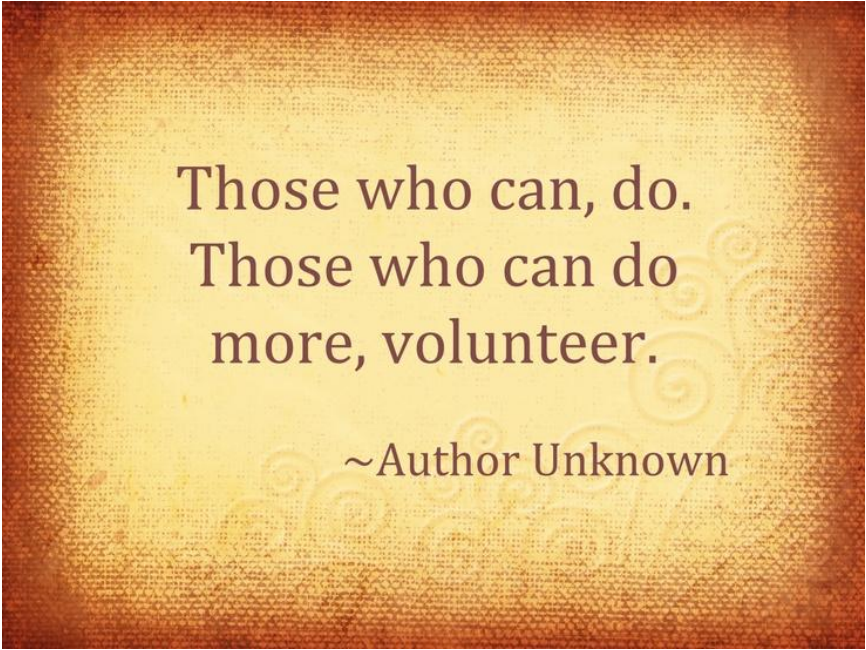
Nov 5 2-4 **Victorian Tea** at Arnold House, taking reservations now

Nov 12 9-3 Table at Woodbury Church Bazaar, do some holiday shopping

Dec 10 11-3 Christmas Open House

Some of us are also actively involved with the Warwick Cemetery Commission.

The next clean-up is at Cem #3 on Post Road on Oct 15.



Those who can, do.  
Those who can do  
more, volunteer.

~Author Unknown

## **BUSINESS SPONSORS**

Business Cards and links can be viewed on our website [www.whsri.org](http://www.whsri.org)

### **GOLD**

Apponaug Harbor Marina  
Bald Hill Dodge Chrysler Jeep Kia  
Burns Construction  
Centerville Woodcrafts, Robert Chorney, Prop.  
Cynthia Corkum, Realtor  
Steven J Grasso, Edward Jones  
Greenwood Credit Union  
Levine Painting  
Webster Bank

### **SILVER**

Henry AL Brown, Historian  
Gilmore Furniture  
Herb Chambers Cadillac of Warwick  
RI Home Improvement  
Thorpe's Wines & Spirits  
Washington Trust Bank

### **BRONZE**

American Picture Frame  
Arlington Coin  
Café Tempo Coffee House  
Classic Chimney  
Krafty Sisters  
KC Concrete  
Mr Kitty's Cat and Rocksanne  
Rainbow Relics  
Steve Silva, Computer Doctor

