

NEWSLETTER MAY 2017

375TH ANNIVERSARY

On April 26th Henry AL Brown's presentation on Warwick's historic houses and sites was very well attended. In case you were unable to attend, the display case at city hall has been updated with further photos to supplement Henry's slideshow.



The next presentation in the series will be on May 17th at 7 pm at the library. Col. Ron Barnes will talk about the **Pawtuxet Rangers** and their place in Warwick's history during the Revolutionary War. Come and meet some of the rangers in their full uniforms and

view some of the memorabilia ordinarily on display at the Pawtuxet Armory.

MEMBERSHIP

It's that time of year again. Membership packets have been sent out for the year beginning July 1st. Please make note of your address label. You will find the last date you paid your dues in the upper left hand corner. If you are current you will not receive a packet.

Many thanks to our business sponsors who have supported us in the past year. Go to our website to find their business cards and, if possible, avail yourself of their services.

We need the support of all our businesses and individuals to be able to support our activities.

BRICKS

We are accepting requests for memorial bricks once again. The form is available on request. Please be aware we are required to have a minimum order so it may be a while before the bricks are on site.

BOOKS

We now have copies of Anne Eckert Brown's books on early American stenciling. They are coffee table books that make great gifts.

COMING EVENTS

We have applied for a booth at the **Gaspee Days Festival** over Memorial Day week-end. Plan on stopping by to meet some of our members and purchase a book or two.

Our **Annual Open House** and meeting for election of officers will be on Saturday June 17th from 11 am to 2 pm. We will have election of officers and refreshments will be served. You will receive the proposed slate in a timely manner prior to the meeting. We will not be open on June 10th due to the Gaspee Parade.

The Warwick Museum is having an exhibit featuring **Oakland Beach** during the month of June. We will have a booth with copies of our Oakland Beach material and will have reprints of our postcards available for sale. The Museum hours are posted on their website.

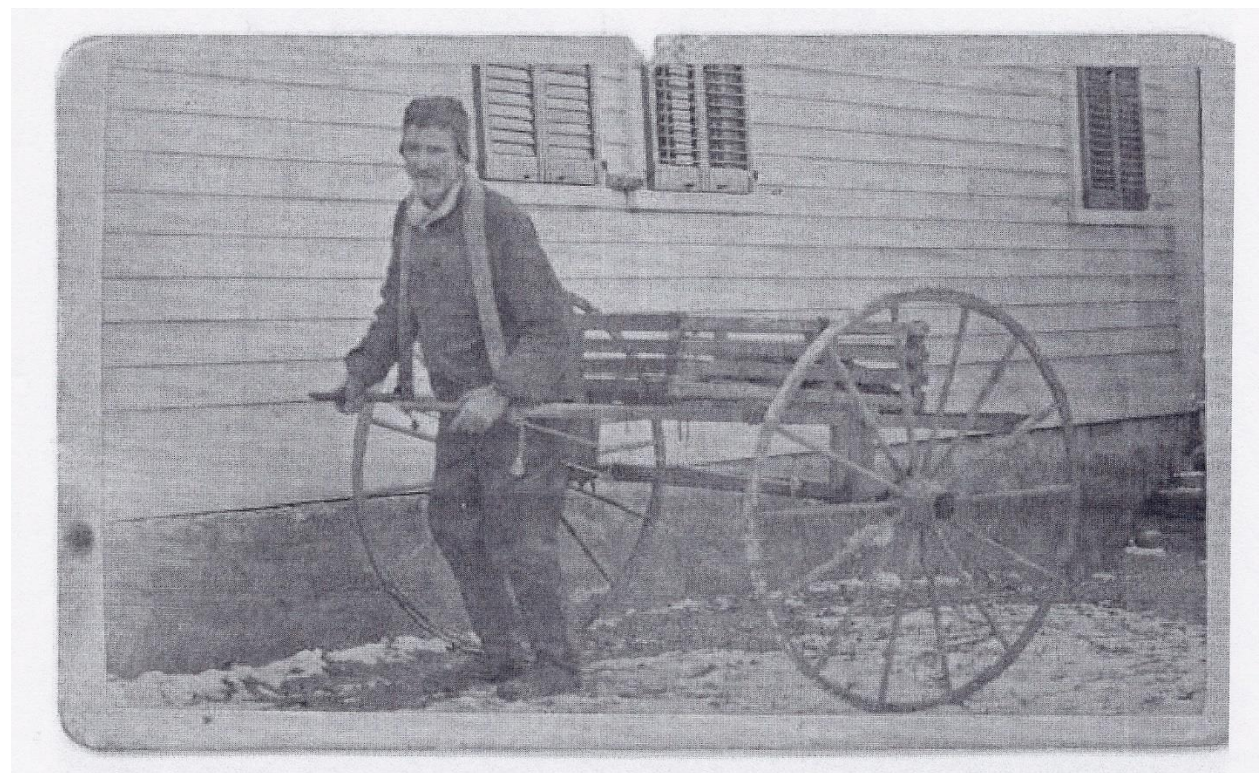
COLLECTIONS

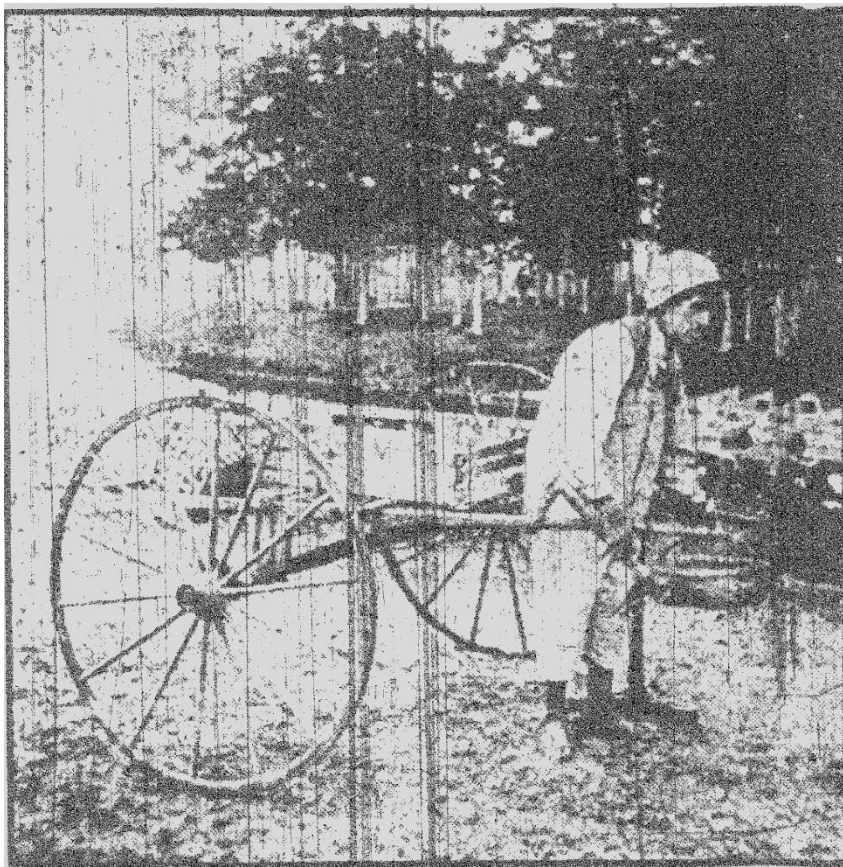
We recently completed an inventory of the Arnold House furnishings and now have a complete digitized listing plus photos of all items in the house. In the course of that activity an object came to light we could not identify. Thanks to Ron Barnes we now know it is a hand tooled leather World War II Japanese cartridge case. Many thanks to student intern Cornelia Trahan who assisted in this endeavor.



BUTTONWOODS POOR FARM KIOSK

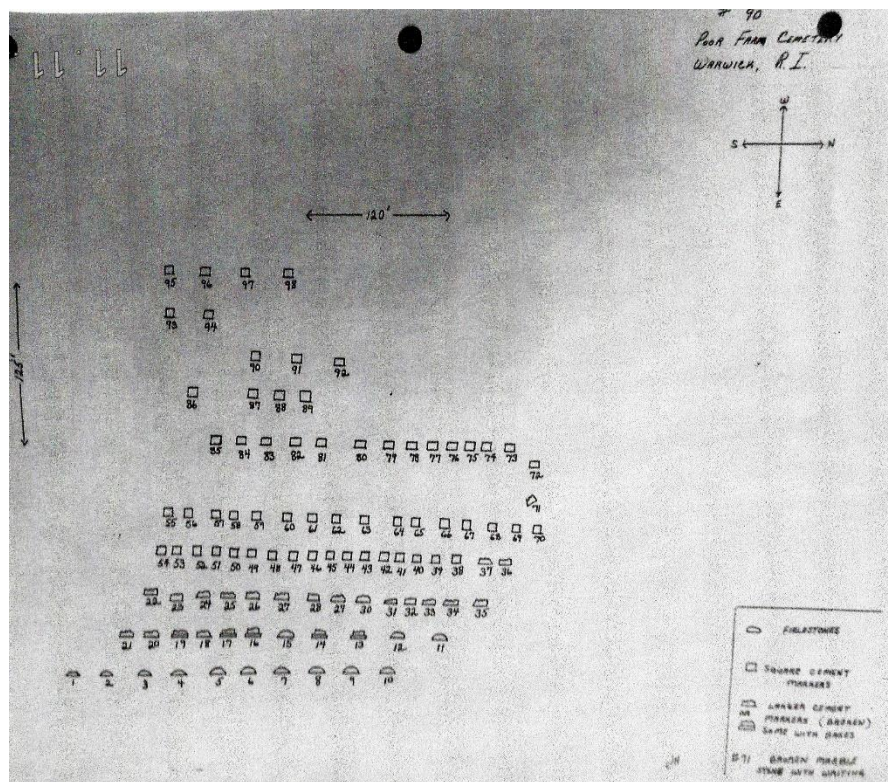
Some of you are aware of the plans of the Warwick Historical Cemetery Commission and the Warwick Historical Society to erect a kiosk at the poor farm in Buttonwoods. There are 98 stones in the cemetery that have no names. Through research at the Society and the RI archives we have identified most of the internees. It came to our attention that there is one person buried there who was well known to the citizens of Warwick in the latter part of the 19th Century. His name was Charlie Cutter. We are pleased to provide a face to a name that has a colorful history. The Cutter family emigrated to New England from England around 1640. The family was very prominent in Massachusetts and we have a digitized copy of the book published with their genealogy. Was Charlie Cutter a descendent of this family? If so, how did he come to live in Rhode Island? We may never know.





CHARLIE CUTTER.

Clamdigger of Greenwich Bay, Who Died in 1892.



OF BUTTONWOODS.

Portrait of Eccentric Character
May be Presented to His-
torical Society.

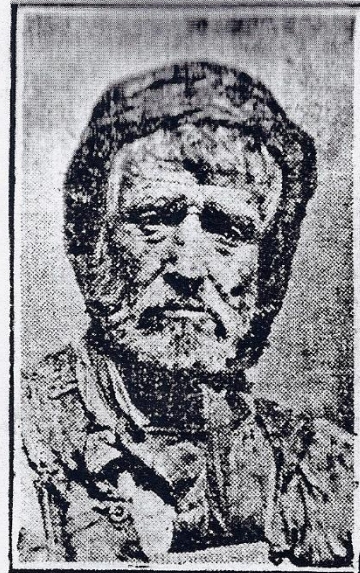
AT the studio of A. DesGranges in Olneyville there is an old painting of Charlie Cutter of Warwick Plains, who is remembered by residents of Buttonwoods because of his peculiar habits. With his wife hitched to his clam wagon he was daily met on the way to market. The man, with his clothes sewed to his body and in a most unkempt condition, was not desired as a near neighbor, but people travelled a great distance to see the pair.

The oil painting was made by Carlo Del Tufo, a young man who recently came here from Italy, and is to be offered to the Rhode Island Historical Society. Del Tufo has made an excellent likeness and because of the interesting character, it is thought that the society will be glad to accept it.

Cutter had an ancestral history which indeed, interesting and, as told by Fred Sherman of Attick, dates back before the Revolutionary War. In the year 1770 three brothers, John, father of Charlie, Charles and Moses, came from England and settled in Newport. When the war broke out the brothers returned to England, where they remained until peace was declared. On returning to this country Moses took up his residence in what is now the city of Providence; John and Charles settled in the southern part of the State, somewhere near Rhodes street. There they remained until death thinned out the family, leaving only Eliza and Charlie. Last spring Eliza died at the Warwick Town Farm, aged about 80 years. For more than 60 years she was a familiar figure at Baptist meetings.

Charlie had lived with his sister until he was about 30 years old. Early in life peculiarities developed and he was looked upon as a queer chap. He was a target for fun-making for the boys, who delighted in getting under his window and shouting: "Charlie Cutter lives on bread and butter!" Once the revellers were followed by Charlie, who carried with him an old flint-lock gun with a barrel fully six feet long.

When he left his sister's home, he built a small hut on the Buttonwoods shore, where he lived several years. His time was occupied in digging and selling clams, and in this way he accumulated about \$800. He purchased about a half-acre of land on the main road from his former home and built a shanty, 10x20, and there he lived until the authorities removed him to the Town Asylum. While living on the main road, he married a woman named



CHARLIE CUTTER.

Ennis. The match seemed to be an equal one in many ways. She was not profoundly intellectual, but she was as interesting a character as her husband. Charlie had already attracted much attention by his custom of harnessing himself to a two-wheeled cart when bringing his clams to market.

After his marriage the woman played the part of "horse" and Charley walked alongside the wagon, urging her to go faster. Warwick officials interfered and removed the woman to the Town Asylum, where she still lives. Charles is buried in the town lot. Although dead a number of years, he is still remembered by the summer residents of Buttonwoods.

These articles were published in the Providence Journal in 1902 and July 1, 1906. Our thanks to Henry Brown for saving them in his vast collection.

Teach the children so that it will be unnecessary to teach the adults.--
Abraham Lincoln