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<u>NEWSLETTER</u>

MARCH 2015

Like Phoenix rising from the ashes we have emerged from the snow relatively unscathed.

One exception is the condition of our walkway. It has been deteriorating over the years and this winter's weather has done its worst. It is badly in need of replacement. We are talking with a contractor to have it all dug up and replaced and work will begin as soon as the weather permits. We will be open during construction but we ask that you take special care if you come to the house during that time.

EVENTS

Our presentation of Carousels and Quahogs, a story of Rocky Point and Oakland Beach, in January was a great success. There was standing room only and we have received a number of requests to repeat it.

Our next event is scheduled for Thursday April 2nd at 7 pm at the Warwick Library. Col. Ron Barnes of the Pawtuxet Rangers is going to relate the heartwarming story of a family member shot down during World War II and his later tie to a German family. If you have any unique military WW II memorabilia, bring it with you that evening and be prepared to share with us.

We have scheduled two Rise-up Paranormal dates: Friday April 24th and Sat May 16th, starting at 6:30 pm at Arnold House. The fee is \$25 per event. Space for these events is limited and must be reserved and paid in advance. Contact Bob Chorney at capecod379@aol.com to make your reservation and arrange payment.

NEW BOARD MEMBER-WELCOME

Cindy Corkum, Realtor, one of our corporate sponsors, has agreed to join our Board of Directors to fill a vacancy. She will serve as chairman of our Program Committee.

MEMBERSHIP

It's that time of year again.

Current memberships will expire soon and we ask you to <u>please</u> renew for the coming year. We value everyone's participation and ask that you become actively involved. We always need help. By spending time with us on a Wednesday or Saturday you can see what we are doing and you may find some activity that would be of interest to you.

This year if you bring in a new individual, family or corporate member you receive your membership for free. Membership forms can be downloaded from our website. We haven't raised our dues because we want you to continue to be members without hardship.

Two new members, Michael Kelly and Michelle Robinson are currently working on a digital inventory of our house contents. They volunteered for this after talking with us to see what our needs are.

BOOK PUBLICATION

Bob Geake has been meeting with some of our members to prepare *Warwick Through Time*, a book that will be submitted to a publisher at the end of the month. It is a pictorial "then and now" type of softcover book. We will let you know when it is available for sale.

CITY HALL DISPLAY(S)

If you haven't already seen Bob Chorney's collection of Warwick matchbooks on display you need to see them soon. We will be removing them at the end of the month. Below is a sampling of what is in the collection.



Next month we will begin celebrating 50 years at the John Waterman Arnold House with photos and documents on display. We first acquired the house in 1965 and it has undergone a lot of changes during those years.

Beneath the rule of men entirely great, the pen is mightier than the sword.—Edward Bulwer-Lytton 1803-1873

THE ORIGINS OF MARK ROCK

By Felicia Gardella

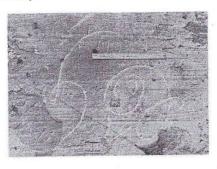
From time to time we receive inquiries about Mark Rock ["the marked rock"] and its petroglyphs. Henry AL Brown recently provided us with a copy of *An Historical Sketch of "Mark Rock" on Narragansett Bay, R. I.* 1981 by Charles M. Devine. In this report he describes the origins of the mystique surrounding a set of carvings located right here in Warwick largely ignored by researchers.

In 1642 John Greene, Sr. acquired 700 acres of land fronting Occupassuetuxet Cove from the Sachems Miantonomi and Socononoco. He built his home a half mile from what would become known as Mark Rock. One of the earliest identifiable dated markings is "W. G. 1775", perhaps by William Greene [1746-1809]. Earlier markings have been attributed to local American Indians.

Petroglyphs are considered "doodles" or early graffiti by some or a pictographic writing system by others that tells a story at a time before writing materials were available. There are stories that state these in Warwick were made by the Vikings and later by the American Indians, the Pawtuxets of the Narragansetts, at the time of King Phillip's War. The exact age of the original carvings on Mark Rock is unknown, but the site is the "best surviving example of such activity in the Narragansett Basin".

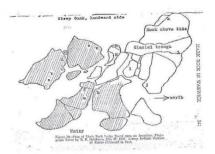
Over the years the area became a summer resort with a tavern, hotel and steamship dock. The Greene home, the tavern, the Mark Rock Hotel and its dock no longer exist and the ledge with its markings is difficult to locate, is mostly buried in sand due to hurricane action, and is almost submerged except at extreme low tide.

The photos below were taken in 1981. The complete report is available at the Warwick Historical Society.









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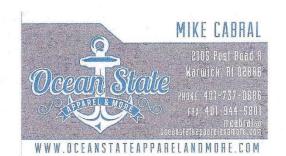
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