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NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2016



Visit our display of old fashioned valentines at City Hall before the end of the month.

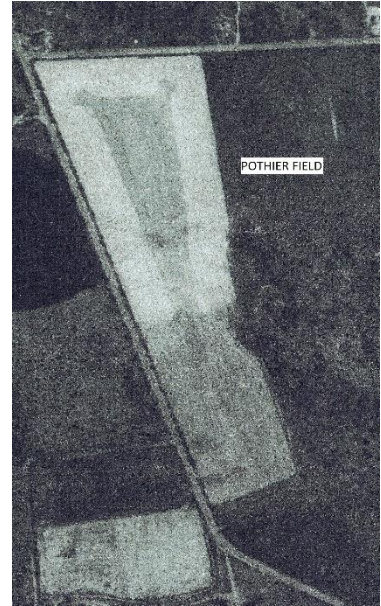


AIRPORT HISTORY

In October 1932 the Providence Magazine announced that since August 6th of that year passengers could leave Providence [Warwick] on American Airways at noon and be in Chicago by 9:30 pm!! Passenger service was also available to Washington, DC with a stopover and plane change in Newark, NJ, and the roundtrip fare from Providence to New York was \$32. It also stated that 1000 passengers had flown out of the airport during that same time period.

Did you also know that Pothier Airfield in Buttonwoods was once considered as a location for Rhode Island's Airport? Charles Lindburgh came to town and viewed the locations in Hillsgrove, Buttonwoods and Spring Green Farm in order to give his opinion as to the suitability of the various locations for our new airport.

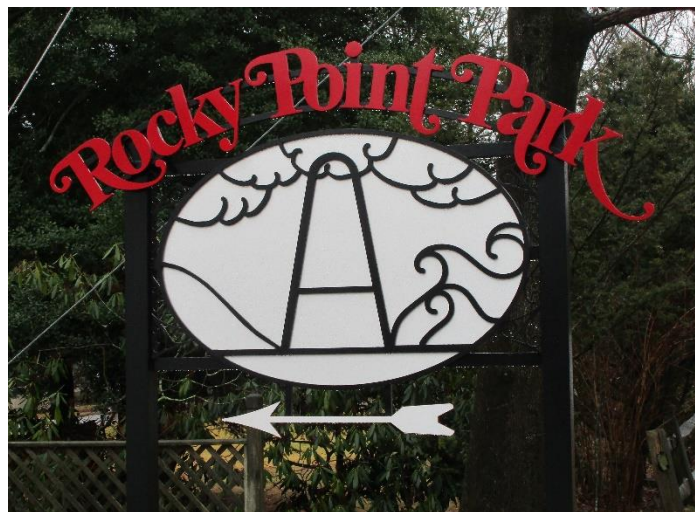
On **Wednesday February 24th at 7 pm** at the Warwick Library, Chet Browning from the airport will tell us more about its history. We will have on hand some of our ephemera from our archives.



ROCKY POINT SIGN



The city recently replaced the sign on Warwick Neck Ave pointing to Rocky Point. We have the old sign that was removed when the park closed. The sign is damaged but if you look under the letter R you can see the remains of the arrow that pointed down Rocky Point Ave.



New Sign

MEMORIAL BRICKS

We are currently assembling another order for bricks. You will find the order form later in the newsletter. 4 x 8 is \$50 and 8 x 8 is \$75. Submit a check to us at the Warwick Historical Society with your order and we will add it to our brick order.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 21 2-4 Painting Class with Anne Bianchi at Arnold House
Feb 24 7-9 History of the Airport See Above
Mar 23 7-9 Grandpa John Remembers WWII with Ray Wolfe at the library
Apr 4 7-9 Warwick Cemeteries with Pegee Malcolm, Warwick Cemetery Commission
Apr TBD *Warwick Through Time* with Robert Geake, Author at the library
Apr 30 2-4 Afternoon Tea at the Arnold House
May TBD Trolley Tour of Warwick Historic locations with Henry AL Brown
May Gaspee Days Arts & Crafts
June 11 Gaspee Days Parade
June 25 2-4 Open House at John Waterman Arnold House

Mark your calendars and watch for further announcements via Facebook and e-mail.

COMPUTER SYSTEM

Our completed digitized files have been uploaded to our computer network. There is still a lot more to be done but what we do have is available for use. This will be an ongoing project into the future to preserve Warwick's history.

DONATIONS

Since the first of the year we have received quite a few additions to our collection. For the library Pegee Malcolm provided us with copies of the Arnold Cemetery books for Warwick, West Warwick, Cranston and East Greenwich; Ron Barnes provided us with a copy of the book he edited about the SAR; Cindy Corkum and Bob Chorney donated a number of yearbooks to add to our yearbook collection; Henry Brown and Bob Chorney added more dairy bottles and farm ephemera to our collection; David Stone provided us with copies of his books for our library, and Henry Brown gave us copies of his Blueway articles.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

What follows is a reprint of Part I of a newspaper article that describes land sales in Pawtuxet in 1923 that explains a lot of the land development in the area at the time. We will continue with Part II in the next newsletter.

CITY HALL

Our next display will celebrate the 240th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

The greatest [calamity] which could befall [us would be] submission to a government of unlimited powers.--- Thomas Jefferson

LAND SALE PAWTUXET June 5 1923

EXTENSIVE REAL ESTATE DEAL

Rhodes Brothers Acquire Land in Cranston and Warwick

Rhodes brothers of the Rhodes Brothers' Company, the incorporated name of Rhodes-In-The- Pawtuxet, have purchased the city property at Pawtuxet, consisting of 506,247 square feet of land on the Cranston side of the Pawtuxet River, and 17,400 square feet on the Warwick side, The property comprises the dam and water privileges with the land on which four stores are located on Broad Street on the Cranston side, and the building occupied as a blacksmith shop, as well as another used as a livery stable on Main Street [Broad St.] on the Warwick side of the river.

The property is located on the right hand side of Broad and Main Streets directly abutting on the Pawtuxet Bridge on the Cranston and Warwick sides of the river.

The deeds have not yet been passed but the purchase was completed last week. The sale being consummated on the part of the city by Commissioner of Public Works Robert E. Smith. The city purchased the property in 1879 for \$50,000. The property is now taxed for \$20,000; of this amount \$13,000 is on that portion in the 4 town of Cranston and \$7000 on the land on the Warwick side.

The land abuts on the Pawtuxet River continuing around the sweep of the river until it almost reaches the limits of the property now known as Rhodes-On-Pawtuxet. The portion of the property just purchased comprises one of the most beautiful sections of the Pawtuxet River. The property includes about half of the business section of Pawtuxet.

The property has been on the market for a long time, and is considered a bargain at the price. It came into the possession of the city through purchase from the American Wood Paper Company, Dec 8, 1876, and cost the city \$50,000. The purchase was made at that time primarily to secure the water privilege and the dam at the mouth of the Pawtuxet, to insure an adequate water supply for the city water department. The necessity for holding the land and the dam has long since passed.

The dam, built for use in the water power of the old cotton mill that for many years stood there, forming one of the principal industries; the only mechanical industry, in fact, of the village of Pawtuxet, became of no use to the city, although its retention has had an important effect on the business of Rhodes Brothers and Rhodes-On-the- Pawtuxet. For many years the Rhodes Brothers, and in the years previous the late Thomas H. Rhodes, who started the boating business at Rhodes-On-The Pawtuxet, has maintained the dam by keeping it in repair. By this purchase they have secured it and have thus assured a height of water in the river great enough for canoeing and boating at all times.

