

[www.whsri.org](http://www.whsri.org) and Facebook

## NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2014

Our Open House was well attended thanks to our Westcott family visitors. There were 115 members representing 28 states staying here in Warwick for their bi-annual reunion and because they had such a good time while they were here they voted to return in two years! They came from as far away as Hawaii, England and Washington state.

The dedication of the cemetery adjacent to the Westcott land on West Shore Road was attended by almost all of the Westcott family that had gathered for the reunion. It is now officially Warwick Historical Cemetery #165. Mayor Scott Avedisian spoke to the group and presented the family with a citation from the city honoring the event. How it all came about is in the story that follows.



L-R Betty Acker, Westcott Family Historian, Mayor Scott Avedisian, Felicia Gardella, President, Peggie Malcolm, Chair, Warwick Cemetery Commission

LOST PUBLIC BURIAL GROUND A18  
WARWICK HISTORICAL CEMETERY #165  
STUKELY WESTCOTT

There is no public record indicating the location of the resting place of Warwick Proprietor Stukely Westcott. Family history has stated he was buried with his wife Juliana in the Westcott property on West Shore Rd.

In the fall of 2013 the Warwick Historical Society was contacted by the Westcott Family Association Historian Betty Acker. She wanted to find a permanent home for the Westcott memorabilia in her possession and thought it appropriate it should be located in Warwick. It was agreed that the society would accept what she had and maintain the collection. This prompted the society president to search their archives for any Westcott material that had been collected in previous years. In that material she found a typewritten copy of a study done in 1886 by Judge J. Russell Bullock of Bristol RI to locate the home lot of Stukely Westcott. It was later determined that the information was copied directly from his book *Incidents in the Life and Times of Stukeley Westcotte With Some of His Descendants*, pp. 22-23, Pub. 1886. Judge Bullock's wife was Emma Westcott an 8<sup>th</sup> generation direct descendent of Stukely Westcott.

His research led him to Town Council and Probate records, records of Deeds, imperfect plats of the first surveys and grants, examination of ancient papers, and field notes and surveys of John Warner, surveyor and Clerk of the first proprietors, that enabled him to locate with reasonable certainty the location of the home lot and residence of Stukely Westcott. This is most likely the source of the hand drawn maps showing the location of the property and burial ground adjacent to the lots of Peter Burzecott and Stukely Westcott. He also found that in 1663 Stukely Westcott was one of a committee appointed to "lay out the Burzecott land, the Town House and burial lots". This layout was confirmed by the town on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December, 1714, as it appears in an old plat map then made by Malachi Rhodes, surveyor.

In Oliver Payson Fuller's *History of Warwick* first published in 1875, on p. 142 he states that "Up to 1663, it seems to have been the intention of the settlers to provide some place where they could all be associated in death as they had been in life. This idea was, however, subsequently abandoned and each family provided a suitable spot for itself." He went on to say that "One of the old places now [1875] nearly obliterated is about one hundred feet from the present schoolhouse. One of the graves was that of Mr. Emmett, who was a school teacher at the time of his death, which occurred in the year 1727. Good substantial slate stones with suitable inscriptions marked the place of his internment until the vandalism that came in with our free schools broke them up." He continued with a quote from the town records that stated that a public burial place had been laid out prior to Feb 20, 1663 with a lot for a town house adjoining "ye buryings place layd out for ye towne is eight poles square, joinging to ye western end of Peter Burzecott's aker of land". The lot was early appropriated for school



purposes, and the school house was used for the town meetings. The Indian war that broke out soon after [1675] destroyed any buildings that may have existed.

James Arnold recorded about 90% of the cemeteries in Warwick/West Warwick from 1890-1894. Only 5 gravestones dated prior to 1700 were ever found, only 266 prior to 1800 and only Mr. Emmett's was found in the area of the Westcott property. By 1992 109 cemeteries had been identified and registered and according to Sterling's Book Preface there were 154 registered cemeteries in Warwick alone. By 1997 John Sterling [*Warwick Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries, Pub. 1997*] and a group of genealogists had examined all of the Arnold material that was scattered throughout the state in no particular organized fashion and found, identified and verified all of Arnold's Cemeteries wherever possible. There was no mention in all that material of a cemetery near the Westcott property. In his book published in 1997 158 cemeteries are listed and there is an appendix that lists the presumed 23 lost cemeteries of Warwick. He lists A18 as the School Master Lot and quotes Fuller's *History of Warwick* describing the public burial ground as stated above.

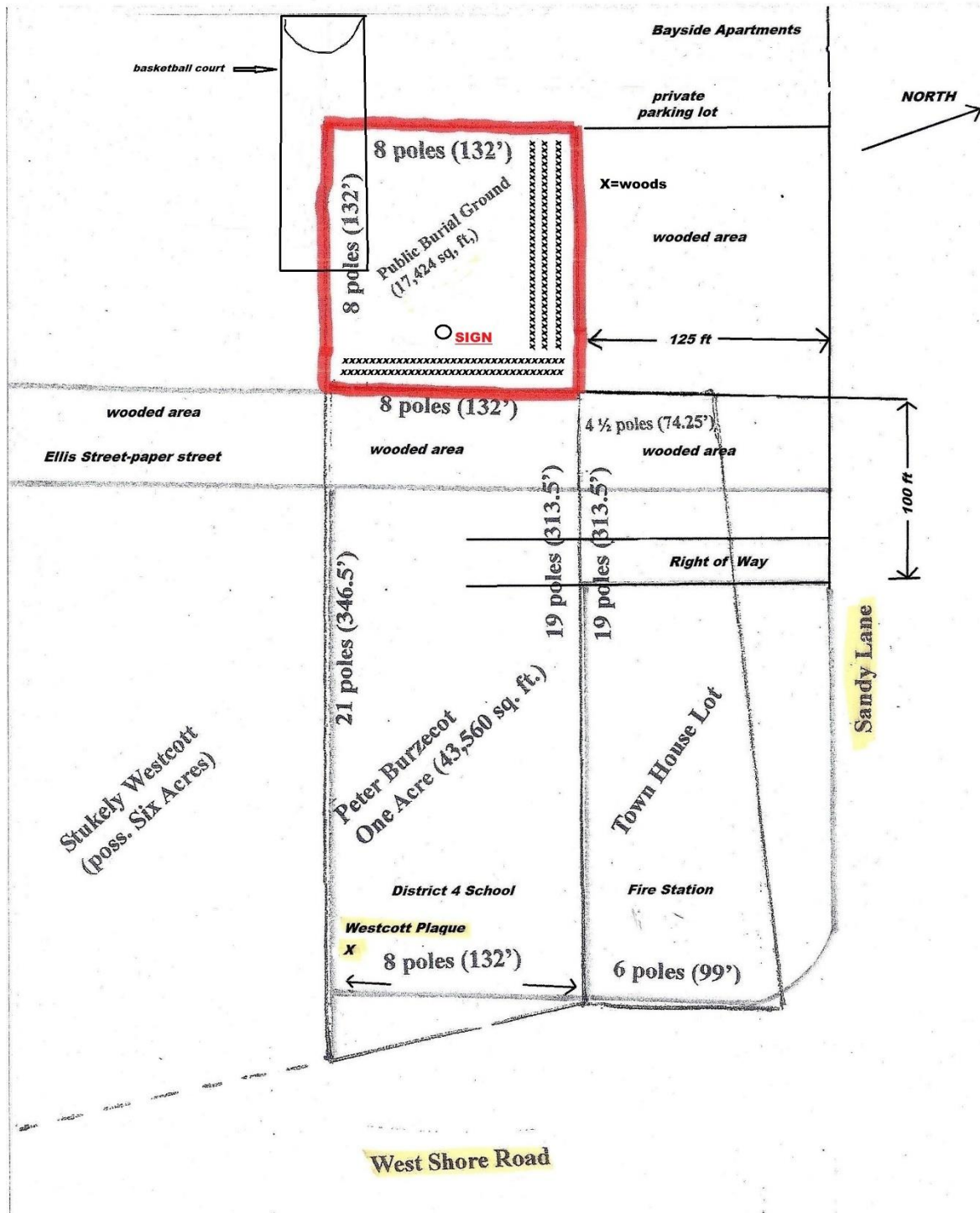
Armed with this information Felicia Gardella, president of the Warwick Historical Society, contacted the Chair of the Warwick and Rhode Island Cemetery Commissions, Peggie Malcolm, to see if it was possible to have the burial ground officially designated a Warwick Historical Cemetery. The Westcott Family Association was having its bi-annual reunion in Warwick in June of 2014 and it was thought it would be appropriate to have the cemetery dedicated at that time. Ms. Malcolm requested a colleague, Mark Brown to use all this information to investigate town records and confirm, if possible, the burial ground. Based on Mark's research the earlier hand drawn map was verified and John Sterling was consulted. As a result, 351 years after being laid out in part by Stukely Westcott as the first public burial ground in Warwick, it will become Warwick Historical Cemetery #165 on June 28, 2014.

Stukely Westcott died on January 12, 1677 in Portsmouth RI having gone there to escape King Phillip's War. It took his sons two weeks to travel from Prudence Island to Portsmouth after his death. Although he made a will it was never signed and was finally probated 20 years later on February 18, 1697.

Family oral history has always maintained that Stukely was buried with his wife Juliana Marchant in the "Westcott Cemetery" in Warwick but no verifiable proof of that has ever been found.

By Felicia Gardella, President, Warwick Historical Society June 22, 2014

Map compiled by Mark Brown



## NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS for 2014-15

President: Felicia Castiglioni Gardella  
Vice President: Henry AL Brown  
Treasurer: Bob Chorney  
Rec. Secretary: Trish Harmon  
Cor. Secretary: Judy Jencks  
Board Members: Bob Geake, Peggie Malcolm, Andrew Novak

## FUND RAISING

Membership: For fiscal year 2014-15 is now due. If you have not paid your dues please pay as soon as possible. If you have already done so, you should have received your membership card. We thank you for your support.

Bricks: We are currently assembling a list of those that have already requested a brick so that we can submit an order. You will be notified when the bricks are in.

Reserved Funds: We now have three memorial funds that anyone can add to at any time; the Maureen Callahan Scholarship Fund, and the Madaleine Toy and Ed Greer Funds.  
[Make checks payable to Warwick Historical Society]

Corporate Sponsors: From time to time we will tell you something about our sponsors.

The following is from our sponsor New England Farm and Artist:

New England Farm and Artist is located at 1112 Main St in Washington Village, Coventry. We are a store designed to help support and build our community. We showcase the work of local artists and offer products made on local farms and by local artisans. We are a place to share information, and run discussion groups and workshops. By supporting the sustainability of our planet, our products enhance our health and bring the community together in support of common goals.

At NEFA we welcome the involvement of community members in all aspects of our operation. Anyone interested in volunteering, having a table for your farm or product, conducting a workshop, or helping to establish relationships with the community come in and talk to us. We look forward to meeting you.

Our hours are Tue-Sat 10:00-6:00 and Sun noon-5:00

See our ad for further contact information.

If you would like to become a sponsor, send a business card and \$50-\$100 to our address and, if possible, provide a brief description we can use to highlight your business.



## OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS

Farmer's Market, Art Festival and  
Community Space

www.farmandartist.com  
info@farmandartist.com

401-415-5857

1112 Main St.  
Coventry, RI  
02816



**New England**  
FARM AND ARTIST

Steven J. Grasso, AAMS®, CFP®  
Financial Advisor

**Edward Jones**

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



800 Oaklawn Avenue  
Suite A2  
Cranston, RI 02920  
Bus. 401-944-0409 Fax 888-203-9555  
TF. 800-896-8389 Cell 401-480-7597  
steven.grasso@edwardjones.com  
www.edwardjones.com

— AFFORDABLE LAWYER —

CHARLES M. VACCA, JR., ESQ.  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

*Achieving High Level Goals  
by Development, Innovation and Execution*

124 Fairway Drive  
Coventry, RI 02816

401-828-0290  
Cell 401-523-5351  
cvacca@cox.net

**Arlington Coin**

We Buy Coins-Currency-Bullion-Scrap Gold Jewelry & Estate Jewelry  
Postcards, Gold Watches-Sterling Flatware & Sterling Hollow Ware, Gold  
Filled (4oz+)

140 Gansett Ave. Cranston, RI 02910 401-942-3188



Store Hours: Tues-Fri 11:00-5:00 Sat  
12:00-4:00  
Always Closed Sundays & Holidays  
Please Call before traveling to make sure we are  
open.

Lynn Paola  
Manager

BOB CHORNEY  
Owner (401) 822-1133  
capecod379@aol.com

CENTERVILLE WOODCRAFTS &  
COLLECTIBLES

1475 Centerville Road  
Warwick, R.I. 02886

**APPONAUG HARBOR MARINA**

17 ARNOLD'S NECK DRIVE  
WARWICK, R.I. 02886

SLIPS - WET & DRY STORAGE - MOORINGS  
FREE WI-FI - FREE PUMPOUT

DICKERSON'S MARINA, INC.  
JOHN A. DICKERSON, JR.  
WWW.APPONAUGMARINA.COM

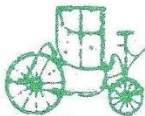
TEL. (401) 739-5005  
FAX (401) 738-4459  
E-MAIL: CAPJAK46@COX.NET

Author of: *Legendary Locals of Coventry*



**Andrew D. Boisvert**  
Author, Genealogist, Historian,  
Lecturer, Researcher

E-mail: [adboisvert@gmail.com](mailto:adboisvert@gmail.com)  
Phone: 401-743-2531 (cell)  
401-397-9421 (home)



**HENRY A. L. BROWN**  
Spring Green Farm

HISTORIAN  
500 Spring Green Rd. • Warwick, RI 02888  
(401) 463-8321  
Email: [greenshold@aol.com](mailto:greenshold@aol.com)



**Ann Eckert Brown**

Ornamental Painter and Gilder  
Period furnishings, decorative  
accessories and interiors  
restored and recreated

500 Spring Green Road  
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888  
Phone: 401-463-8321  
Fax: 401-463-6902

**THE COMPUTER DOCTOR**  
The Only Doctor Who Still Makes Housecalls



STEVE SILVA  
Owner

711 Providence Street  
West Warwick, RI 02893  
401.825.7910  
[www.TheComputerDoctorRI.com](http://www.TheComputerDoctorRI.com)  
[Steve.tdoc@gmail.com](mailto:Steve.tdoc@gmail.com)

Free Diagnostics!

**NATIONAL building PRODUCTS**

**Full Service Lumberyard**  
Expert Services | Prompt Deliveries  
and Hardware Store!



An Inspiring Showroom  
**KITCHEN VIEWS**

M-F 6:30am-4:30pm | Sat 8am-1pm  
3356 Post Rd | **Warwick** (Apponaug) | **401.921.0400**



Office: (401) 736-0600  
Fax: (401) 736-0135  
Cell: (401) 323-6100

**Levine Painting Co., Inc.**  
46 Kilvert Street  
Warwick, RI 02886

RI Reg # 7140  
Fully Insured  
[www.levinepainting.com](http://www.levinepainting.com)  
[Nathan@levinepainting.com](mailto:Nathan@levinepainting.com)



**RI**  
**CONSTRUCTION & CARPENTRY**

all phases of construction  
 commercial • residential

**David Silva**  
 44 Rosedale Rd.  
 Warwick, RI 02818  
 401-230-0123  
 RIConstructionCarpentry@yahoo.com

quality  
 experience  
 dependability

**MIKE CABRAL**

**Ocean State**  
 APPAREL & MORE

2105 Post Road A  
 Warwick, RI 02886  
 PHONE: 401-737-0685  
 FAX: 401-944-5801  
 mcabral@oceanstateapparel.com

WWW.OCEANSTATEAPPARELANDMORE.COM



MARK OF EXCELLENCE  
 AWARD WINNER

**Neil Ferreira**  
 General Manager

HERB CHAMBERS CADILLAC, INC.  
 1511 BALD HILL RD  
 WARWICK, RI 02886

Phone (401) 467-6600  
 Fax (401) 467-2023  
 Cellular (774) 644-0021



**The Jan Companies**



35 Sockanosset Cross Road, Cranston, RI 02920  
 401-946-4000 Fax 401-942-6130 jjanikies@jancompanies.com

**American**  
**PICTURE FRAME**  
 CUSTOM FRAMING • FINE ART

**BALD HILL**  
**GALLERY**

TIMOTHY ZAROGIAN  
 401-615-9800  
 tim@americanpictureframe.com  
 1094 Bald Hill Road (Rte. 2) ♦ Warwick, RI 02886  
 www.americanpictureframe.com

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR SPONSORS

"No winter lasts forever. No spring skips its turn." --Amish Proverb











