

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2017

CONTINUING 375TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The previous presentations at the library were very well attended. The most recent was ***Warwick Settlers and Where They Settled*** presented by the Warwick Commission on Warwick Cemeteries, Mark Brown, Cindy Corkum, Bob Darigan, Lisa DeMay, Maria Peace, Michelle Place, city liason, Sue Cabeceiras, and chaired by Peggie Malcolm.



The next presentation will be ***The Warwick Railroad and Villages Along the Way***, written by Henry AL Brown, Don D'Amato and David Tremblay, on Wednesday September 27th at 7 p.m. at the Warwick Library, David Tremblay presenting. At long last we hope to have copies of the published book available for sale thanks to Mary Channing who made publication possible.

MEMORIAL BRICKS

The bricks have been reset in the Victorian Garden for protection. We will continue to accept orders for memorial bricks and add to the arrangement in the future as requests warrant.



LEGISLATIVE GRANT

Thanks to Rep. Joe McNamara we again received a grant for this year. The funds will be used to upgrade lighting and electrical work in the Arnold House and for the restoration of our 1862 Henry F. Walling map of Rhode Island that was donated to us a number of years ago by Mark Brown. Any short fall of funds for the map restoration is provided by donations from members and friends of the society.

ELECTIONS

Elections were held for the year ending June 30, 2018 at the Annual Meeting on June 17th.

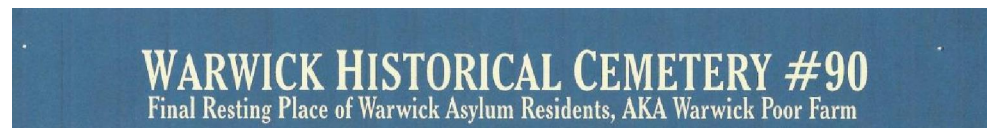
President:	Felicia Gardella
VP Emeritus:	Henry AL Brown
Secretary:	Matt Cate
Treasurer:	Robert Chorney
Members-at-large:	Ron Barnes, Cindy Corkum, Ken Gilbert, Roberta Humble, Pegee Malcolm, Trish Woodard

CEMETERIES

The tombstone jack is now available for use thanks to donations from members and friends. The jack will make the arduous job of raising fallen tombstones much easier.

The kiosk for the Poor Farm Cemetery in Buttonwoods has been delivered and will be erected in the near future. The Warwick chapter of the Lions is planning on a clean-up prior to the dedication. Mayor Avedisian, the Warwick Commission on Historical Cemeteries, and the Warwick Historical Society will dedicate the sign on Saturday September 9th at 1:30 PM at the Poor Farm. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Because of the dedication, Arnold House will be closed that day.



WARWICK CITY HOME AUG. 1939

WARWICK HISTORY

Our secretary Matt Cate recently wrote a letter to the editor of a local paper recounting his memories of Arnold's Pond and is reproduced below with his permission.

As a result Felicia recalled her memory of Arnold's Pond printed in the Evening Bulletin in 1950 when she passed her Red Cross Life Saving test also printed below. Enjoy sharing our memories.

Wonder memories from Posnegansett Lake

Posted Thursday, February 11, 2016

To the Editor:

Posnegansett Lake, or Arnold's Pond, in Lakewood is one of Warwick's natural gemstones. Its placid waters once delighted summer swimmers and winter skaters for decades. As recently as last summer, I noticed people fishing along the pond's eastern banks facing Warwick Avenue, trying to catch one more bite before sunset. The lake is world-renowned for its carp population.

Arnold's Pond will always be a special place to me because I spent many childhood summers swimming there. My grandparents, Dr. Stanley and Dorothy Cate, lived on the southern edge of the lake for nearly 45 years until Nana died in 1999. Papa remained an Arnold's Pond resident until his death in 2006. Family and friends alike continue to remember the halcyon days of sizzling summers and whispering winters on the lake. It meant something special to each of us.

Arnold's Pond was named after the family of William Arnold, one of the original Providence proprietors with whom Roger Williams divided up the land he bought in 1636. Arnold later left Providence in 1638 and traveled south to the Warwick/Cranston border. He allegedly settled near the Warwick Avenue bridge in Cranston that spans the Pawtuxet River. I have heard that the Arnold family once owned all of the land from where William Arnold resided down to Airport Road, bounded to the west by Aldrich Junior High School and to the east by the bay.

Although William Arnold's legacy is less reputed than his former friend Roger Williams, Arnold played a significant role in shaping Warwick's history. Arnold famously led the movement to banish Samuel Gorton and his followers from Pawtuxet. Gorton later founded Shawomet, which became modern-day Warwick.

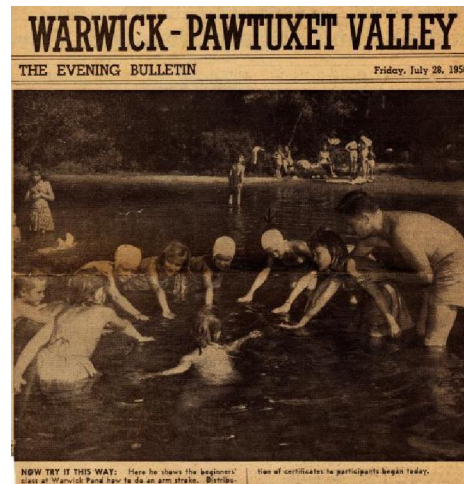
Fast-forwarding two centuries, Arnold's Pond became home to the Posnegansett Ice Company, which was founded in 1887. Posnegansett Ice Co. provided ice to the community and elsewhere for decades. Throughout the 20th century, Rhode Islanders enjoyed spending summer vacations swimming at the beach end of the lake. Winters would be spent ice-skating or riding snowmobiles on the pond's frozen surface.

What are your memories of Posnegansett Lake (Arnold's Pond)? They are all a part of Warwick's rich history – a tapestry of human experience that must never be forgotten.

Matt Cate

Warwick

Matt is a member of the Warwick Historical Society.





CITY HALL DISPLAY CASE

As of September 1st the case will be changed. We will remove the Oakland Beach materials and insert material about the Warwick Railroad. These are mostly items not found in the book and not likely to be included in the talk at the library on the 27th.

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See list on following page

Perhaps someday it will be pleasant to remember this.---Virgil

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