BH&PS Active in Fall Events

The Society has been very active this fall in many events. In October we welcomed people to the Bridgeton School during the “Footsteps in History” weekend. Later in October, we participated in the Downtown Pascoag Fall Pumpkin Festival where we dressed in ghoulish costumes and promoted the Society and sold home-baked goodies. In November we held our annual Holiday Bazaar on two weekends. We were successful with our Holiday Raffle and Penny Social thanks to the many donations made by area businesses and members. The Society owes a big thanks to its members for their donations and to Denice Mitchell for acquiring the others; also, to Ashley and Kerry Hopkins for being persistent in selling lots of tickets. We also entertained and informed many visitors during the Downtown Pascoag Victorian Holiday Celebration. All of these events help to promote the Society and the work we are doing. Please consider volunteering and join the fun!

*President’s Message*

Please take note of the many interesting topics we have scheduled for our 2010 meetings. In January, Robert Grandchamp will be returning with an exciting talk on World War I. In February the Paranormal Society will be making a special presentation about happenings in Burrillville. In March and April, the two-part documentary on the history of Glocester will be shown. This should be of interest to Burrillville people as we were all one town before 1806.

Sadly, our October 2009 presentation titled “Jim Taylor, A Roadhouse and a Murder” had to be canceled due to illness. It has been rescheduled for October 2010. If you have ideas for future programs, please let us know.

Betty Mencucci

Happy New Year!

**Upcoming Meetings/Events**

Jan. 26 - The Rhode Island Doughboy in World War I by Robert Grandchamp
Feb. 23 - Presentation by the Paranormal Society
March 23 - First half of Glocester Movie “West of the Seven Mile Line”.
April 27 - Second half of “West of the Seven Mile Line”.

Betty Mencucci
Cemetery Committee
Active this Fall

The Cemetery Committee has been busy cleaning some of Burrillville’s historical cemeteries this fall. On November 7 the group cleaned cemeteries #94 and #95 off of South Main Street in Pascoag. These two cemeteries are located right next to each other. Several of the gravestones appeared to be missing at first, but the group discovered that the stones had fallen down and were under several inches of leaf litter.

On Nov 15 and 22 the group cleaned cemetery #11 on North Road in Pascoag. This is a larger cemetery that required a lot of work. There were several large rotten trees that had fallen on top of some of the stones. Luckily Russell Lacey came armed with a chain saw to tackle some of the larger trees. There was quite a bit of brush to cut, and the cemetery was raked. Again, there appeared to be gravestones missing, but they were found buried under the leaf litter and dirt from an abandoned fox den.

The group is evaluating its historical cemeteries to determine what cemeteries need care and where signs are needed. We are attempting to reset any fallen gravestones in their upright position whenever possible. We are also verifying the information on the stones to make sure that our records are accurate.

The cleanup crew consists of: Ron Lapierre, Henry Duquette, Russell Lacey, Denice Mitchell and Betty Mencucci. Obviously, the committee cannot clean every cemetery in town and needs help. We will resume work in the spring when the snow melts, so if you are interested, please join us. In the meantime, the cemetery committee will be meeting monthly to plan its work. We are also hoping to get volunteers to adopt cemeteries. Please contact Denice Mitchell at 769-8174 if you

Ron Lapierre, Cemetery Committee chairman, and Russell Lacey uprighting a fallen gravestone.

Cleaning on Cemetery #11 is complete. The crew worked about nine hours on it.
Donations

Russell Robillard - photo of Henry Johnson
Shirley Greene - photos of Hopkins Machine Works
Mary Russell - old desk from the Mapleville Schoolhouse
Anonymous - school desk
Denice Mitchell - school desk
Donald Biron - old weathervane (fire wagon and firemen pulled by a team of horses racing to a fire).
Ruth Lambert - large Bible belonging to the Calvary Episcopal Church.
Bettina Brawn from Missouri - research on Pine Harbor
Department of Transportation - Round Top Bridge photos.
Russell Lacey - Spring Lake ice fishing photos

Please save your Dino's and IGA sales slips! Support your local markets and BH&PS at the same time. The percentage of the total which the Society receives is used to preserve our archives. Drop them off at the Jesse M. Smith Library, mail them or bring them to a

Save Computer Ink Cartridges
BH&PS is collecting empty ink cartridges from any model printer. Each cartridge will be exchanged for $3.00 worth of office supplies from Staples.

Spring Lake Slideshow at the Museum of Work and Culture
The slideshow titled “Herring Pond, Now Spring Lake” will be shown at the Museum of Work and Culture in Woonsocket as part of their Ranger Days series. Betty Mencucci and Mabel Hopkins will present the program on Sunday, January 31 from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Society Receives Grants
In December the Society was awarded a $1,200 grant from Ocean State Power. It will be used to purchase new signs and new sign posts for some of our historical cemeteries in town. Some of the cemeteries in town never had signs, and some signs are so rusty they can’t be read or are full of bullet holes, etc.

The Society also received a $500 State Legislative grant which will be used to power wash and apply a sealer to the ramp, deck and stairs on the Bridgeton School. This work will be done in

Meeting Schedule - all welcome
BH&PS meetings
4th Tuesday of each month - 7:00 p.m.
Planning Committee
2nd Tuesday of each month - 6:00 p.m.
Cemetery Committee
2nd Wednesday of each month - 6:30 p.m.
Herring Pond (early 1900s) by Betty Mencucci - Part II

After 1900 Richard McManus and John Meade, owners of the Great Western Hotel in Nasonville, operated the hotel at Herring Pond. They sold beverages from their bottling works in Nasonville as well as ice cream. In 1903 Richard McManus purchased a steam launch called the “Frances” and charged a fare to ride around Spring Lake. This steam vessel had previously been on the Pascoag Reservoir. There was another steam vessel called the “Idle Hour” that would take you all around the lake for 10 cents.

Before 1906 there were no cottages on the lake; people camped in tents. In 1906 the Rocheleaus leased a small piece of land from the Herring Pond Land Company and built the first cottage on the lake. They were from Carrington Avenue in Woonsocket. Trees were cut on the site and used to build the cottage. Supplies were brought in from Woonsocket by horse and cart and then transported from the Main Beach in a rowboat because there was no road. They hauled a stove, beds, chairs, bureaus, cases of canned goods, trunks of clothing and barrels of sugar and flour. After leaving Woonsocket, they had to travel the rest of the way on dirt roads. It took them three hours to get to Herring Pond. Living on the lake in those early years was not easy. Campers had to row to the tavern to buy ice. A meat wagon would stop by or three times a week and the tavern-keeper would blow a horn to signal the campers. They then would have to row out to the beach to make their purchases. Sometimes campers attended church in Glendale and sometimes they would row to the Island and then walk to Harrisville to St. Patrick’s Church.

In 1907 the Herring Pond Land Co. leased the “green building” on the main beach to the Trank Brothers of Mapleville. They sold confectionery, cigars, peanuts, soda, canned goods, bakers goods, pastry, and lunch. They were given the exclusive right to sell ice cream, but the lease strictly prohibited the sale of intoxicating liquors.

Also in 1907 the Herring Pond Land Co. leased a small strip of land to Gauvin and Chartier of Burrillville so that they could erect 8 swings, and a 20’ x 20’ piece of land to build a lunch stand. Again, the lease prohibited the sale of intoxicating liquors.

Sometime around 1910, John and Mary Hey acquired the beach from Silas Harding. They provided free transportation to the beach by truck. Herring Pond was a busy and crowded summer resort back then. People would come from the city of Woonsocket and other places to spend a Sunday at the beach. Many would travel by trolley to Glendale. When they got off the trolley, jitneys would be waiting to drive them to the beach.

In 1916 John Hey leased the hotel and some land to Henry Lapan and Patrick Maher. At that time the hotel had a chance wheel and a large icebox. They sold cigars, tobacco, confectionery, ice cream, fruit, sodas and mineral waters. The lease gave them the privilege of letting boats and canoes upon the waters of Herring Pond, but no power boats were allowed. They also held bathing rights.

Around 1917 Mr. and Mrs. Fred Monroe came to the Lake and operated Monroe’s Dining Hall and Bathing concession. His business was situated at the far end of the Main Beach. In January 1929, their business burned. It was rebuilt and by May 30, 1929 they were ready for business. In 1938, 500 people could be served in one sitting in the dining hall and several thousand could be accommodated in their bathing pavilion in one day.