



# *The Babcock-Smith House Museum Newsletter*

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Memorial (left) for Henry Lippitt,  
Governor of the State of Rhode  
Island from 1875-1877.  
Details (above)

## The Lintons' View from the Vault

One of the many enduring things that Docent and Trustee Ike Smith painstakingly completed was entering the information from twenty-two Smith Granite order books into a computer which created a working database: his entries included the name on the stone, its location, the type of monument, the men who worked on it, what they did and how much they were paid. It took him years to finish; but with that information readily available, most monuments, memorials, buildings and commemorative statues can be tracked and verified. For several years, Linda and Ken Chaffee and my husband John and I have been chasing these stones.

In 2015 we spent three afternoons in Stonington CT photographing monuments in Evergreen and Saint Mary's Cemeteries, as well as the town hall, the former high school and the former Baptist church steps. An additional three afternoons in Mystic and Old Mystic CT found us at The Elm-grove and St. Patrick's Cemeteries, Mystic Seaport, the Mystic River Bank, Mystic Water Department, and The Civil War Soldier. While in Miami FL we went downtown in search of two buildings . . . one was gone; but the Arcade, built at the height of the Florida Land Grab for \$11,000, was still there. Urban blight had taken its toll, but we found the imprint of the sign as well as some of the granite used.

Recently, Linda Chaffee and Ellen Madison received permission to take pictures of Westerly granite in Swan Point, a private Providence RI cemetery where the Smith Granite Company placed approximately 250 stones. One afternoon last fall, we used the information from Books One (1881-1882) and Two (1883-1884) to locate some of the most exquisite works we have seen.

Another vault task is completed. Susan Sullivan Brocato, whose family owned and ran The Sullivan Granite Company, and I have been reviewing and organizing pictures, newspaper articles, advertisements, and other documents. This three-volume collection is stored in the vault. Organizing the material relating to The Bonner Monument Company is our next project.

A huge word of thanks to the current Babcock-Smith Board of Trustees who provided better lighting and an automatic dehumidifying system in the vault, thus making our working conditions much more comfortable.

Submitted by Brenda Linton  
Granite Archivist

## “This Is Yours”

Recently, the Westerly Public Library received a substantial grant to help preserve and share its special collections. Dan Snyder gathered a group representing various community organizations to collaborate in forming an overall plan. John Coduri and Ellen Madison are representing the museum. An offshoot of these meetings was the opportunity for Blanche Higgins, assistant town planner, and Dan to take a personalized tour with Ed Fazio and Ellen of the items on permanent loan from the library. Our visitors did not hear the standard spiel about granite or the Babcocks—or even about the architectural details of the house.

“That painting of Stillmanville is yours. This red granite table is yours. This banister-back chair that Yale is going to borrow is yours.” And so it went as we pushed on relentlessly—through the exhibit, the vault, and the museum itself. What resulted was a greater appreciation on everyone's part that we need to celebrate each other's strengths. What the library could not display and share easily with the public, we can. We also have a history of working with the Westerly Armory, sharing with them artifacts which more appropriately belong there. This is community cooperation at its best.

# Thank you to our 2015 Docents, Members and Sponsors 2015

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Our thanks extend to all our members who have contributed their time, talent and other gifts to the Babcock-Smith House Museum. We have made every attempt to make the membership list accurate as of January 2016. Please inform us of any errors.

**Become a Member**

Mail to: Babcock-Smith House Museum, c/o  
Ellen Madison, 149 South Woody Hill Road,  
Westerly, RI 02891

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Level: \_\_\_\$25 \_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\$250 \_\_\_\$500 \_\_\_\$1,000 \_\_\_\$2,500  
*Individual Family*

Make checks payable to **Babcock-Smith House Museum**. Thank you.

I would like information on: \_\_\_ candlelight dinners for 12 \_\_\_ including the Museum in my estate plan

My donation will be matched by \_\_\_\_\_

# Upcoming Events

All events unless otherwise indicated are at the Carriage House, free for members and \$5 to not-yet members.

## Westerly Historical Society

### Members' Potluck and Research Sharing Event

January 31, Sunday 2 pm



## The United Theater Project: History, Renovation, and Future

February 21, Sunday 2 pm

Presented by Tony Nunes and Simon Holt from the United Theater



## Westerly Railroad Station; Rhode Island Railroads

March 6, Sunday 2 pm

Presented by Joseph Coduri

"Rhode Island Railroad Depots," recently published by Joseph Coduri, illustrates the rich heritage which railroads played in the economic and social history of our state. Using images from his post card collection, Joe provides a nostalgic and visual ride along Rhode Island railroads.

## Saving the Memory Day

March 13, Sunday 2 pm

Presented by Robert Webb of Charter Oak Scanning



## Two Watch Hill Families

April 10, Sunday 2 pm

Presented by Jane Maxson and Cheryl Bamberg

## Bonner Monument Company--A 20th Century Company

April 24, Sunday 2 pm

Presented by John B. Coduri

John will share historic photos as he illustrates his talk about the Bonner Monument Company. He will also show photographs of some of the many monuments produced at the Ashaway Road shed.



## A Local "History Detective": Who was Mary Noyes Rogers?

May 15, Sunday 2 pm

Presented by Charlene Senical

Upon the discovery in December 2003 of two 1938 *Westerly Sun* articles on the passing of Mary Noyes Rogers, initial research has culminated into a 10+ year journey of undocumented Westerly and Pawcatuck history. This talk will focus on the probate records of Ms. Rogers and the many discoveries made along the way.



## Westerly – The First Years

June 12, Sunday 2 pm

Presented by Meg Barclay

Using *Westerly and Its Witnesses* as her primary research material, Meg Barclay will give an encore presentation of a program on the English settlement in Westerly from 1662 to about 1734 originally written by her father Stanton Saunders.



## Victorian Secrets Formal Tea Party

June 29, Wednesday

Save the date! Stay tuned for more information about our exciting upcoming exhibit of Victorian lingerie. This formal tea party will feature Patricia Perry, the popular historical interpreter, as well as the usual delicious fare prepared by our docents.

