



Westerly's Witness

www.westerlyhistoricalsociety.org

September 2013

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Edward A. Fazio

Welcome to the September issue of *Westerly's Witness*. It seems like only a few weeks since our gala 100th Anniversary annual dinner last May, but again summer has come and gone before we know it!

With this issue we welcome a new publisher/editor of the newsletter, Ann Smith, who is also our society treasurer. After many years of doing a fantastic job of publishing as well as writing most of the copy for this newsletter, Tom O'Connell asked to be relieved of the publishing part of that job. I'm sure you will be as glad as we are to know that Tom will continue to contribute fascinating historical articles for this newsletter! Quite frankly I did a fair amount of worrying over the summer about how we would keep this great publication going, but those concerns were put to rest at our first board meeting earlier this month when our hard-working and very enthusiastic treasurer volunteered to take on the job! Thank you Tom for all the great newsletters you have produced over the years

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Calendar of Events

October 6

Brian Cooper
of

Early New England Restorations
will give a lecture and video presentation entitled "The Pendleton-Chapman House of Avondale". His talk will be about the origins of the homestead, the deconstruction, and how the timbers are being restored.

Sunday, October 6 at 2pm.

Free & open to the public.

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November 3

Makers of Modern RI
Pat Connelly

Details to follow next month!

Programs are held in the carriage house of the Babcock-Smith House Museum
124 Granite Street
Westerly, RI

Joseph Pendleton's "Lotteryville"

Ann L. Smith

About one month ago, our town's daily newspaper, *The Sun*, was awash with color photographs of the restoration being done at the historic Pendleton-Chapman House in Avondale. A recent visit to the property sparked this writer's interest in the early history of Avondale, and the story of Joseph Pendleton's "Lotteryville."

Near the intersection of Avondale Rd and Route 1A (Watch Hill Road) stands a monument with a brief history of the area and an explanation of how Lotteryville (now Avondale) came to be. If you are in a hurry, you can stop off sometime and read this short historical write-up. If you are interested a longer, detailed version however, you have come to the right place.



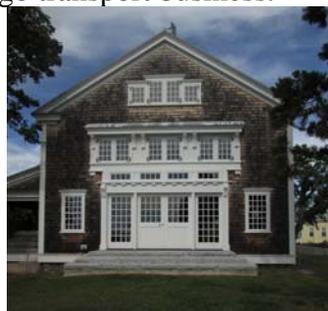
Joseph Pendleton III, like his father, Joseph Pendleton, Jr. Was born in Westerly RI. The elder Pendleton was born on March 3, 1702 and married Sarah Worden in Newport at the age of 21. Joseph Pendleton III was the eldest of their six children and he was born on October 26, 1724. The Pendletons owned a large farm along the Pawcatuck River in the southwestern part of Westerly.

While barely 25 years of age, young Joseph set sail for the West Indies in his father's brigantine (a two-masted

sailing ship with square rigging on the foremast and fore-and-aft rigging on the mainmast). The plan was to return with a cargo of rum and molasses. Sadly, the vessel was lost at sea after leaving Anguilla in August 1749 carrying the full load of cargo. By this time, young Pendleton had married and was the father of two small children. Not only had the Pendleton family lost a son, a brother, husband, and father, neither the brigantine nor the cargo was insured. After a year with no news of the missing ship, Joseph III's wife also died, leaving his two children orphaned (see insert.)

Facing financial ruin, the elder Pendleton devised a plan to divide his farm into 126 building lots and, with the permission of the Rhode Island General Assembly, sold them by means of a lottery system. Lot number 111 contained the home of Joseph Pendleton, Jr. and it is there, in 1750, with sufficient proceeds from the sale of his lots, that he built the historic old house that is now undergoing restoration.

Historical accounts also note that Joseph Pendleton Jr. repaid all his debts resulting from the loss of the brigantine, purchased a new ship and continued his cargo transport business.



Through the years, "Lotteryville," as it was known, prospered and flourished. The building lots were populated by many farmers and several sea captains. In 1893 the residents petitioned for a post office of their own. Mrs. H. E. Burdick consented to be postmistress with Mrs. J.O. Babcock as assistant. The petition was granted under the condition that the name "Lotteryville" be abandoned, because "not even the word 'lottery' could be legally used in United States government matters."

Three names were chosen and submitted: Mastuxet (the popular choice), Ninigret, and "Avondale," the eventual choice of the Postal Service, was submitted by I. Frank Hall.



The Avondale post office opened in March 1894 and continued operations until July 1901. The village has been supplied with Westerly water since 1902 and in 1905 the first telephones and electric street lamps were installed.

Although the Avondale post office is no longer in operation, it is because of its creation and the suggestion of I. Frank Hall that the name Avondale has remained throughout the years.

September 2013

The Disposition of Captain Pendleton's Affairs

*The Colonial records of Rhode Island show the following:
"Colony of Rhode Island. To the Honorable the General Assembly sitting at Providence by adjournment the first Monday in December AD 1750. The petition of Joseph Pendleton of Westerly in the county of Kings County, humbly sheweth, that your Petitioner's son Joseph Pendleton, being a married man with two children, in the month of May AD 1749 sailed a voyage to the West Indies Island and the last account your Petitioner or any other of his Friends had from him was August following, sailed Homeward bound; and is in all probability lost at Sea; since which Time, to wit, in the month of October last past, his Wife was taken away by Death, and left the two small children and some considerable personal estate in Money, Stock & Household Goods, and as he left a power of Attorney to his Wife when he went away, she being now dead, no person has any power by Law to dispose of any part of said estate for the advantage of the children, and if it should be left in such condition til the Town Council has any Right by law to grant administration to any person, great part of said Estate might be wasted, and lost to the great Disadvantage of the Children. Wherefore your petition of said Westerly to grant administration to some person to take an inventory & make disposition of such part of said Estate as may be thought proper, and the money put out for the advantage of the children and your petitioner shall as in Duty bound pray be Joseph Pendleton"*

"December 7th 1750, To the House of Magrts. Gen. Resolved that this Petition be granted Voted & Past P. Order I Lyndon Is the House of Magrts, Dec 8th, 1750 Read & Concurred with By Order Tho Ward, Secy. A true copy examined by Tho. Ward, Sec."

On the 25th March 1751, Col. Joseph Pendleton and William Champlin, "the two grandfathers to the said orphans, Joseph & William Pendleton, sons of Joseph Pendleton, Jr., who is supposed to be lost at sea since which time his widow is Dead, ask that inventory be made of estate, the property divided, and each grandfather take administration of half and care of one child." (West. C & P Rec., ii, 288)

On the 1st of July 1751, inventory of the estate was presented amounting to 1515 pounds 10 shillings., and administration given to the two grandfathers (Ibid., pp. 251-2). On the same day Col. Joseph Pendleton as principal, with Benoni Smith and Joseph Champlin, gave bond to the town of Westerly in the sum of 1518 pounds 10s., for the proper administration by Col. Joseph of one half the personal property of Joseph Pendleton, Jr., supposed to be dead, and for the bringing up of the eldest of Joseph Junr's children, viz., Joseph Pendleton. This bond was not recorded until July 1769 (Westerly C & P Rec., iv. 118).

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nanc/avery/aqwg58.htm#1384>

Go Paperless! Save a Tree!

Beginning with the current issue of *Westerly's Witness*, you can view the newsletter at www.WesterlyHistoricalSociety.org if you have access to the password-protected page.

If you would like to receive an email and password to alert you each time a new issue of *Westerly's Witness* is available online, simply respond to whssecretary@gmail.com, and we will add your email address to our e-newsletter mailing list.

If you would like to keep receiving your hard copy of the newsletter, please let us know that when you sign up for the e-newsletter and you will continue to receive a paper copy as you always have.

Membership News

In the past year the Westerly Historical Society was pleased to have 14 new members join.

We would like to encourage additional community members to participate in our organization. Please contact Lise Mayers, Membership Chairperson at

whsmembership@gmail.com if you have questions about becoming a Westerly Historical Society member.

BABCOCK-SMITH HOUSE MUSEUM DOCENTS' UPDATE

Museum Tours:

Two group tours visited in September. A Connecticut tour company called "Away For The Day" brought 30 people on September 12 to tour our museum. Forty-seven John Brown House docents visited on September 15. They had a tour of the museum followed by a talk by Linda Chaffee on the granite industry, with an emphasis on the location of Westerly granite products in Providence.

"Soup's On – Veggie Style" Luncheon:

Friday, October 11. 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Join us for seven vegetarian soup and chili offerings with salad and four different kinds of breads. Several dessert style breads will also be offered.
At the Carriage House. \$10.00 at the door.

The Hopkinton Historical Association Presents

"The Ashaway-Westerly Trolley"

With Guest Speaker

Robert Suppicich

Sunday, October 13, 2013 2:00 4:00 PM

Lutheran Church

Junction of Rt. 216 & Wellstown Rd

Refreshments will be served.

www.hopkintonhistoricalassociation.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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and thank you Ann for making a great start with this issue!

I am pleased to report that progress continues toward having a home for the Society. The capital campaign to fund an expansion of the Carriage House at the Babcock-Smith Museum is proceeding very well and we are hopeful that the new facility will be built next year as planned. As you may recall, the new space will house a permanent granite industry museum, have increased space for Museum and Society programs, and will have a vault and working space for Society archives. I hope you share our excitement at being this close to having a Westerly Historical Society home for the first time in 100 years!

So I hope you enjoy this issue of the *Witness*. We'd love to see you at the Fall speaker programs that Pamela Scott has arranged, and as always if you would like to get more involved with your historical society please join us at a monthly board meeting; first Wednesday of the month through year end at 6:30 PM in the Babcock-Smith Carriage House.

Ed Fazio

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Permit No. 165

Westerly, RI

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