



David Mishkin to Speak on Photography at RIGS Annual Meeting, May 18

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David Mishkin

The Annual Meeting of RIGS will be held on Sunday, May 18th beginning at 1:30pm, in the lower level of the First Baptist Church, located at 34-44 Main Street, in Wickford. The afternoon will

get underway with a business meeting and election of officers.

Our speaker will be David Mishkin, from Portland, Maine. He is well known on the National and Regional Lecture circuit for Genealogy. He received a B.S. degree in photography from Rochester Institute of Technology in 1969 and has graduated from their Photographic Preservation seminar series. He has presented lectures on preserving photographs and documents for over ten years from Boston to San Francisco.

Mr. Mishkin has recently completed two terms as the President of the New England Regional Genealogical Conference and has served as the Conference Chair for the 2002 Cape Cod conference and the 2005 Portland conference. He has also served as the Exhibitor Chair for the 1998 Portland conference. He has written several articles in photographic magazines, as well as genealogical and historical magazines and publications. Currently, Mr. Mishkin serves as Vice President for the South Portland Historical Society.

His presentation topic is "Photographic Identification, Conservation, Preservation and Restoration." Today, we are seeing more and more color photographs that are fading almost as we are looking at them. Many families have tintypes that are getting so dark you can hardly see an image or albumen prints that have faded so much that you can't tell which relative is which. It is a fact that most of

RIGS MEMBERS' MEETING

Sunday, May 18

1:30pm – 3:00pm

LOCATION

First Baptist Church

Main Street

Wickford, RI 02852

AGENDA

- Brief Business Meeting & Election of Officers
- Speaker: David Mishkin on "Photographic Identification, Conservation, Preservation and Restoration."

the color photographs taken in the 1950's have changed colors or are more likely fading away. Deterioration has become a major problem for those families that have photographic collections. In order for us to be able to pass down the photographs we have today, we need to know how to preserve them for future generations.

Attend the RIGS Annual Meeting and learn how to identify the various photographic processes and the years they were popular. Hear about the causes of deterioration from daguerreotypes to videos and how to prevent or retard further deterioration. Also, see how to enhance faded photographs and restore damaged photographs.

So, dig out your old photos, tintypes, home movies, photo albums, and VHS tapes and bring them to the meeting along with your questions. Bring examples of what you are doing to preserve these old family treasures to share with others. Mr. Mishkin will spend time after his presentation with anyone interested in learning more. You are welcome to bring a non-member friend who is interested in genealogy or in preserving old photos or home movies. ▲



An autographed copy of "Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research", 4th Ed., by Marcia Melnyk will be offered as a door prize at the conclusion of the annual meeting. You need to be present to win.

Fall Bus Trip

Mark your calendar for the RIGS Fall Bus Trip to Boston, slated for Oct 22nd. A choice of three research facilities will be offered: the New England Historical Genealogical Society; the Massachusetts State Archives; or Boston Public Library. The trip is open to all, and members are encouraged to bring along non-member friends. Registration details will be included with our next newsletter.



Warren waterfront from the Massasoit Historical Association of Warren

Archivist is recording historic documents in Warren

By Cindy VanSchalkwyk

The following was submitted by RIGS member Lynda Rego and was published on Feb. 13th by East Bay Newspapers in the Warren Times-Gazette where Lynda serves as the Community News Editor.

Professional archivist Nancy Kougeas has been visiting a number of organizations in Warren since October, taking a look at old records and photographs with an eye to preserving town history. Ms. Kougeas was hired to search for old records and record what's there for Warren's Documentation Survey Project.

"I'm in the process of finalizing the report. It's sort of like being a detective, following the leads, and talking to people," she said.

Since October, Ms. Kougeas has checked out information at the library, Massasoit Historical Society and Warren Preservation Society, as well as fire stations in town, Town Hall, school department, senior center, Federal Blues, many of the churches and several businesses. A \$5,000 Grant from the Rhode Island Foundation provided the funds to hire Ms. Kougeas.

Pat Redfearn, director of George Hail Library, initiated the project last fall. She saw a need to catalog sources of information in town. She said people stop by the library with different requests for information, some of which she cannot answer.

"I have people coming in here, they might have had a parent or a grandparent who worked at Cutler Mills, and they want to know where the records are." The process itself is history in the making. "Warren is the first town in

the state of Rhode Island to work on this kind of project," Ms. Redfearn said.

The project is a collaborative effort. On the committee with Ms. Redfearn is Warren Town Clerk Julie Coelho and several people involved in town history; Walter Nebiker, Pat Read, Ed Theberge and Spencer Morris.

By the end of the month, Ms. Kougeas will finish the draft of her report. The report lays the groundwork for future archival work to take place. Ms. Redfearn said the group will ask the town council for \$1,000 to purchase archival folders and photograph enclosures to store many fragile documents in town that lack archival storage. A long-term goal is to record the whereabouts of documents on the library's website. The committee also hopes to upload historical photographs at that site or on the websites of other town organizations, allowing easy access to the information.

"The first step has been seeing what is there and talk about how to fill those gaps so the total history of Warren is documented," Ms. Kougeas said.

Ms. Kougeas said part of a strategic plan should include planning for the future. "People don't realize what's happening today will be history tomorrow. If we have a really bad hurricane, what would we do to protect the history we have." ▲



Post a ROOTS Query

Still having trouble with brick walls in your family research? RIGS members may get help by submitting a free query to our Journal *Rhode Island Roots*. Why not take a few minutes to write a query today (thirty words or less) about your most challenging RI brick wall. Please submit to the Query Editor, Deby Jecoy Nunes, 23 Job Drive, Richmond, RI 02892-1022 or by email to: debyn@lori.ri.gov. RIGS members are allowed to submit four free queries per year. Non-members are welcome to submit a query for a cost of \$5 each.

RIGS Program at Peace Dale Library

RIGS is presenting a two-session program titled "How to Trace Your Family's History" at the Peace Dale Library on May 12 and 13, beginning at 7pm. The Library is located at 1057 Kingstown Road, in South Kingstown. The program will focus on the fundamentals of searching family history. Registration is required for this free program and attendance on both days is expected; to register call 401-789-1555, ext 112 or send email to jwilson@skpl.org. For information or directions, visit their website: <http://www.skpl.org>.

Tips, Tidbits and Events



"Bridge to the Past" at Smith's Castle

Smith's Castle, in collaboration with the Roger Williams National Memorial, will host *Bridge to the Past* from noon to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 3, and Sunday, May 4, 2008. One of the few 17th century encampments in New England, re-enactors portraying soldiers, sailors, privateers, pirates, sutlers, and traders will take over the Smith's Castle grounds. Visitors will be treated to the sights, smells, and sounds of the 17th century with maypole dancing, fireside cooking, weapons demonstrations, games, and much more. Entertainment will feature Barnacle, a folk group with an extensive repertoire of colonial era music, who will stroll the grounds serenading visitors. Admission: \$5 (members, free); children 6–12, \$1; children under 6, free. 55 Richard Smith Drive, Wickford, RI 02852. For more information, call 401-294-3521 or e-mail smithscastle@earthlink.net.

RI Scottish Highland Festival

On May 17th, from 9am to 5pm the Rhode Island Scottish Highland Festival will be held at the Washington County Fairgrounds, located at 80 Richmond Townhouse Road, Rte. 112, in Richmond. The Festival will include Scottish foods, wares, genealogical information and children's activities. You can research your ancestry at the clan village tents and societies to include: the St. Andrews Society of Rhode Island; the Scottish-American Military Society (SAMS) and, the Scottish Heritage Society. Competitions will be held in Highland dancing and caber toss. The event will be held rain or shine with Opening Ceremonies to be held 12:00pm and an Awards Ceremony at 4:30pm. The cost of admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors (62+), \$5 for children ages 6-12 and under 6 are free. For more information, call 401-596-5849, or visit website: riscot.org, which also has a links section for further Scottish-related exploration.

Gaspee Days 2008

Sponsored by the Warwick Heritage Committee, Gaspee Days has been held annually for the past 44 years in Pawtuxet Village, in Warwick, to commemorate the burning of the British schooner, the HMS Gaspee, in June of 1772. We have included some of the highlights of the 2008 Gaspee Days events, which span over several weeks. Most of the events are centered in and around the Pawtuxet Village, located on Narragansett Parkway, in Warwick, unless otherwise noted.

An Amble through Historic Pawtuxet Village will be held on Sunday, May 18th, beginning at 12:30pm. Produced by the Wyman Elementary School PTA, local schoolchildren will be dressed up in Colonial style to give tours of the historic homes and sites within Pawtuxet Village.

Arts & Crafts Festival will be held May 24, 25, & 26, from 10am to 5pm each day.

Colonial Encampment, will be hosted by the Pawtuxet Rangers, RIM, beginning on Friday night, June 13th and will continue into Sunday morning, at Pawtuxet Park. The Encampment will give visitors a feel for colonial military life and will include dozens of Militia camped out for the weekend in authentic Revolutionary style.

Fireworks Extravaganza on Friday, June 13th at dusk, (approx. 9pm), over Salter's Grove Park, on Narragansett Parkway, sponsored by the City of Warwick.

The 43rd Annual Gaspee Days Parade steps off at 10am on Saturday, June 14th, starting along Narragansett Parkway and continuing onto Broad Street, in Cranston. Expected participants include colonial fife & drum corps, Civil War era units, modern day drum & bugle corps and more. The grand finale unit will be The Mummies.

Burning of the Gaspee, marking the end of the celebration, will take place on Sunday, June 15th at 4pm, in Pawtuxet Park Cove, off Narragansett Parkway. This is the symbolic burning of the ship that sparked the American Revolution.

For the full schedule and more details about Gaspee Days or to learn more about the history of the Pawtuxet Village or the Gaspee Affair visit the following websites: Pawtuxet.com; gaspee.org; pawtuxetvillageassociation.org.

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Many thanks to John Currier, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Pawtuxet Rangers, for addressing the April RIGS members' meeting.



Commission on Historical Cemeteries

The Rhode Island Advisory Commission on Historical Cemeteries is a good source of assistance for any type of information on our RI historical cemeteries. They maintain a website: historicalcemeteries.ri.gov that includes helpful clean-up hints and links to other cemetery sites.

The Commission is currently offering Volunteer opportunities for doing research, taking pictures, inventory and getting GPS readings of the cemeteries (some walking required). The researcher positions would cross reference burial records gleaned from different documents, research property deeds to find easements or rights of way and enter information into the computer. Other opportunities include the following: checking on cemeteries for disrepair; writing of news reports, history programs or brochures; documenting stones and cemetery clean-up projects.

The Commission is also seeking volunteers to serve as Mentors for high school students on the topic of historical cemeteries. Mentors would be teaching the care of a cemetery, the pertinent history, how to go about recording of stones, conducting research on the computer, researching of deeds at a town hall, taking GPS readings and surveying the plat maps. The expected commitment as a Mentor would be twice weekly, in Providence.

For further information on serving as a Volunteer, Mentor or to contact the Commission, please visit the above listed website. ▲

Vermont History Expo

The 9th Annual Vermont History Expo, will be held on June 21st and 22nd, from 10am to 5pm, at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds, Rte. 110, in Tunbridge, Vermont. The Expo showcases a collection of 150 local historical societies, museums, and heritage organizations that meet annually to create a fresh picture of Vermont history with exhibits, music, family activities, food, presentations and performances. Using artifacts, documents and photographs from their collections, these groups create distinctive exhibits.

New this year will be Civil War Sunday, highlighting its impact on Vermont's home front, featuring presentations, activities, and exhibits; this portion of the Expo is being held in conjunction with the Vermont Humanities Council's Civil War initiative.

The admission to the Vermont History Expo is good for both days, the cost for adults is \$8; for students to age 18 the cost is \$4 and children under 5 are free. For a weekend family pass, the cost is \$20.00. There is a half-price admission special for visitors in period dress!

For Expo information, please visit website: vermonthistory.org and click on History Expo. For more information on the Tunbridge Fairgrounds, including a map (click on Contacts) visit website: tunbridgefair.com

Avery Annual Meeting/Reunion

The Avery Memorial Association Annual Meeting/Reunion will be held on Saturday, July 19, 2008, at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum in Mashantucket, Connecticut, from 10:30am to 4 pm. A buffet lunch will be served at 12:30pm. Guest speaker will be Avery Memorial Association Historian, Vincent Pitts, Ph.D with discussion on Averys in the Civil War. For those who would like to explore the museum, there is a separate fee of \$13. On Sunday, July 20, 2008 there will be a church service at the First Church of Christ Congregational Church in Groton, CT. A brunch in the church hall will follow; there is a small fee for the brunch. After the church service there will be a dedication at the Avery Monument, commemorating the 114th Anniversary of the burning of the Hive. After the dedication there will be a cemetery workshop at the Avery-Morgan Burying Ground in Groton. The Ebenezer Avery House will be open. The cost for the annual meeting/reunion is \$30, which does not include the lunch buffet on Sunday. The deadline is June 15, 2008. Contact Stephanie Lantiere at SGLantiere@aol.com for

details. For information, visit website: averymemorialassociation.com

Note: Originally published in UpFront with NGS, The Online Newsletter of the National Genealogical Society. <http://www.NGSgenealogy.org/upfront.htm>

Ames Society 2008 Convention

The Ames Society gathers in New England every two years and is planning their next reunion for October 10, 11 and 12, 2008, in Gilford, New Hampshire. On Friday night there will be a gathering for dinner and Saturday will be an all-day event, also with a social dinner. A visit to the Thompson-Ames Historical Society is planned to include their archival collection. In town there is a cemetery with many Ames gravestones that may be visited. The Kimball Castle is a ruined mansion in the area with links to Ames.

The lodging site has changed to the Fireside Inn (1-800-458-3877). They have blocked rooms off for the Convention, so mention the Ames Society when making your reservation.

The event provides the chance to meet other members of the Ames Society and those interested in Ames/Eames genealogy. The town of Gilford is a scenic town on Lake Winnepesaukee, the largest lake in New Hampshire, which may be enjoyed during the autumn colors.

Details for the gathering are still being finalized, for updates or further information please visit website: amessociety.org and click on Convention. Their website includes genealogical background for the surname of Ames or Eames and contains a feature called "Ask a Researcher". In addition, the site provides links to other Ames-related websites.

The Soule Kindred in America, Inc. will be holding their 2008 Reunion September 11-14, in Plymouth, MA. The gathering will include a day at Plimoth Plantation with a group luncheon prepared in the 17th century manner and a day centered in Duxbury, MA. Registrants will be near libraries which have excellent resources for Soule (and name variants) family researchers. Registration materials are available through website: soulekindred.org and in the quarterly publication, Soule Kindred Newsletter.

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ELM	Elm Grove Cemetery of North Kingstown, Rhode Island Althea H. McAleer (hardcover, 392 pp)	NonMember Price: \$35.00 Special to Members: \$27.00	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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SOK	South Kingstown, Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries John E. Sterling & James L. Wheaton IV (hardcover, 653 pp)	NonMember Price: \$39.00 Special to Members: \$35.00	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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RIGS Events Calendar in Brief

Date	Event
May 18 (Sun) 1:30pm	RIGS Annual Meeting First Baptist Church, Wickford (See page 1)
May 12 & 13 (Mon & Tues) 7:00pm	RIGS "How to Trace Your Family's History" Peace Dale Library (See page 2)
October 22 (Wed) tba	RIGS Bus Tour to Boston NEHGS, Mass. State Archives, or Boston Public Library



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