

Gladys

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but we have images of 60 to 70 percent of our historical objects online.”

The society has more than 100,000 photos and 1,500 collections. A single collection can contain hundreds of documents. For example, the Obadiah and Ruth Williams collection includes the correspondence of the Newport Quaker family from the late 18th century, through the War of 1812, to 1840 — about 300 letters.

“The collection is an interesting study of Quaker life in the area,” Parillo said. “The family moved to New York because they could not farm here successfully.”

In the online database, there is a button called “Random Images.” Click on it and photos of Newport and Newport County history come up — its people, buildings and events. You might see a photo of William Ellery’s desk. Ellery (1727-1820) signed the Declaration of Independence as Rhode Island’s representative.

The next photo might show graphic design plans of the Daniel Parrish House, built in 1851 on Bellevue Avenue. After the Astor family bought the home, they hired Richard Morris Hunt to make a series of renovations and additions to it and it became today’s famous Astors’ Beechwood mansion. Billionaire Larry Ellison, the founder of Oracle Corp., now is converting the landmark building into the Beechwood Art Museum.

Multiple clicks on the “Random Image” button show what Easton’s Beach looked like through the decades, and what area residents wore through the years. The number of photos seems endless and browsing can be addictive for those with an interest in Newport history.

Keyword searches also can open up the collection. Type in “Washington” and the viewer will see everything

from documents relating to George Washington’s visits to Newport to photos of Washington Square.

The society staff believe Bolhouse, who served with the society from 1946-92, would appreciate this trove of information in a new form.

“She had an encyclopaedic memory and was an authority on Newport history and families,” Taylor said.

The society received an anonymous submission to its recent online database naming contest suggesting “Gladys” for this legendary figure in Newport history. The City Council had named her as the first “Newport Historian” in 1985. The society’s staff knew it was a perfect match.

Bolhouse, who died in 1995, may have had a problem with the name, “Gladys,” though.

“Everyone always referred to her as Mrs. Bolhouse,” Taylor said.

Genealogical records show Gladys Bolhouse was a 12th-generation Newporter and her family continues to play a part in Newport’s continuing history. She was the wife of Peter Bolhouse and they had a daughter, Jane, who now is married to former Newport Fire Chief William H. Conner-ton Jr.

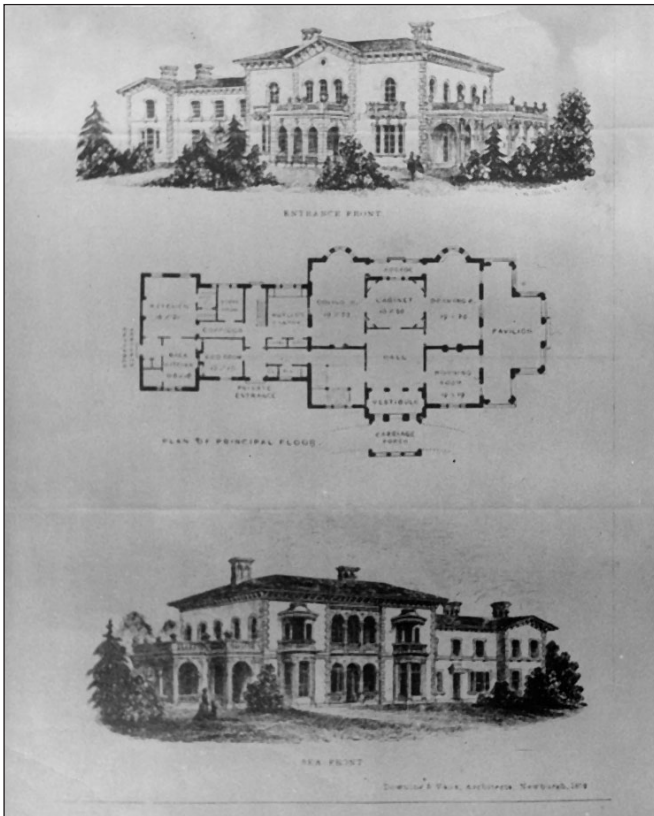
Together, the Connertons had seven children, including current Fire Chief Peter Connerton. Their oldest son is retired Newport Fire Lt. William H. Connerton III and the youngest son is Newport Police Officer Sean Connerton. One of their daughters, Laurie Connerton Waluk, is the mother of former Mayor Steve Waluk, who is now the chief clerk for the state’s District Court.

Bolhouse is permanently remembered in another way: Gladys Carr Bolhouse Road connects America’s Cup Avenue with the Goat Island Causeway.

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Images courtesy of the Newport Historical Society
Photos of artifacts in the Newport Historical Society’s collections, such as the desk of William Ellery, who signed the Declaration of Independence as Rhode Island’s representative, can be seen through the society’s online archives.



Design plans of the Daniel Parrish House, built in 1851 on Bellevue Avenue in Newport, are among the artifacts available through the Newport Historical Society’s online archives.

School

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“We are not saying here is the plan, now live with it.”

Instead, the subcommittee looks upon the draft as a platform for discussion and is looking for feedback.

The subcommittee has received feedback at meetings with teachers and parents at Portsmouth Middle School and Hathaway Elementary School. A third meeting is scheduled Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Hathaway.

A larger meeting is being planned at Portsmouth High School for teachers, parents, graduates and the rest of the community. All meetings are open to the public.

Once the subcommittee collects the feedback, it will meet with the school district leadership team to produce a final report to be submitted to the School Committee. Committee approval is expected late in March or early in April. The final plan should be completed in June or July so it will be in place for the next school year, officials said.

The leadership team is made up of Interim School Superintendent Barbara E. McGann, Assistant Superintendent Jeffrey Schoonover, principals and

LEARN MORE

◆ To get copy of the Strategic Plan Draft Objectives, go to www.portsmouthschoolsRI.org and click on ‘School Committee/Strategic Plan.’ To provide feedback, click on ‘Feedback Form Link.’ The page also shows links for more information.

◆ The Strategic Plan Subcommittee will hold the third in a series of public meetings on Thursday, Feb. 27, at 6:30 p.m. at Hathaway Elementary School.

assistant principals of all four schools, department heads and all School Committee members.

Although it is a report of the subcommittee, Copeland said it really is a product of the whole School Committee. Accompanying subcommittee members Terri Cortvriend and Joseph Wojchowski at all meetings were School Committee members Frederick W. Faerber III and Thomas R. Vadney. Committee Chairman David D. Croston and member Andrew V. Kelly attended many meetings, she said.

One incentive for the strategic plan is avoiding what Copeland called the “whip saw” effect, in which the committee focuses on one thing this year and something else next year.

“Let’s have a long-term objective for teachers, parents and students and make sure we fund it and make sure we work toward it and actually complete it, as opposed to the flavor-of-the-month approach to education,” she said.

To accomplish that, the plan includes a scoreboard or dashboard — an at-a-glance table that will chart the progress of meeting the strategic plan objectives.

“We don’t want this to be document that will just sit on the shelf,” Copeland said. “We want this to be a working document, which means we will have to go back and revisit it.”

One of the core objectives identified by the School Committee and school leaders was creating a kindergarten through 12th grade STEAM program, which stands for Science, Technological, Engineering, Arts and Math.

To that end, the subcommittee arranged a meeting of about 30 people, including engineers from Raytheon and the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, teachers in the science program and graduates who are

now in the engineering field to look into STEAM initiatives in Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Teachers at all levels of the school system expressed concern about the level of stress they see in students, including the stress from homework, pressure for success and even the economic conditions of the past decade.

“We are trying to emphasize that for kids who are not socially and emotionally OK, it is really hard to learn,” Copeland said. “We took some of those concerns into account when we were shaping these objectives.”

One challenge for the district will be to focus on academic achievement in the face of state changes in the testing program from the New England Common Assessment Program to Common Core State Standards.

Even though those standards are in flux, Copeland said, the subcommittee knows where the district should be heading.

“That involves making sure we are increasing proficiencies and lowering gaps,” she said. “We are really focusing on getting our struggling students up, our middle students doing more and keeping our top learners challenged.”

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Judging

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wife of Valentin Piseev, general director of the country’s figure skating federation.

Perhaps this simple fact can be offered as an explanation: Under the current points system, adopted after the judging scandal at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games, Sotnikova, 17, did exactly what she needed to come out on top.

“Today’s figure skating comprises those evaluations that include a program, steps, jumps,” Sotnikova’s coach, Elena Buyanova, said Friday. “We were not behind in our complexity, rotations, and I think we should be proud of our two girls because they did not give in to the world elite.”

Watching from his NBC broadcast location, 1984 Olympic champ Scott Hamilton was intrigued by the 17-year-old Sotnikova’s strategy, which he said worked perfectly for the scoring format. It was more than enough to beat Kim and Carolina Kostner, whose bronze medal was the first in Olympic singles figure skating for Italy.

“Adelina collected more points. That is really the only way you can describe it,” Hamilton said. “If you look at Yuna of the past, this was not a program as difficult as she has done, and she left the opportunity for someone to collect points on that side of the scoring.”

“It may not have been as beautiful as Yuna and Carolina, but under the rules

and the way it works, she did all that. ... I think it was a just strategy that worked on the night.”

It was a strategy based not so much on artistry but on technical superiority. Nothing in the rules says the program must be an artistic masterpiece. Some observers called Kostner’s “Bolero” just that Thursday night. Just check off the boxes: great coverage of the ice, connection between steps, execution that is powerful.

Sotnikova did that, although her margin of victory of nearly six points was shocking.

Eteri Tutberidze — coach of 15-year-old Russian Julia Lipnitskaia, who overshadowed Sotnikova until the last two days — fully supported the outcome.

“Later at night, I watched on TV and Sotnikova was an absolute champion for me,” said Tutberidze, whose skater finished fifth. “It was a presentation of her life. I have never seen her before be so concentrated and skate every element so neat. ... Emotions, jumps, rotations, spins, spirals, and if you combine all these elements, Adelina won overwhelmingly.”

Finding the correct elements is a challenge for everyone: skaters, coaches and choreographers. There is so much gray area in this scoring system, just as there was in the old 6.0 format, that even when the athlete’s strengths mesh perfectly with the music, there’s never any certainty the judges will be impressed.

So upsets happen. “It’s so hard to find the ideal system that

would work for everyone, when it comes to even making the rules of figure skating,” said Peter Tchernyshev, who won five U.S. ice dance titles under the 6.0 formula. “It’s not track and field when you run faster. Or lifted more weight. Or jumped higher. Again, it’s very subjective, yet this sport is surviving over so many years because everyone realizes it’s very athletic.”

“As I said before, somebody likes more athletic, somebody likes more balletic figure skating. Who’s right? Who’s wrong?” Is there even a right or wrong? Judging, after all, comes down to expert opinions.

The athletes wisely steer clear of it all as best they can. Sure, American Ashley Wagner, who finished seventh, questioned the veracity of the points system and, most notably, the lack of openness in it. Generally, though, the skaters take the approach Kim used Friday, hours after she retired from competitive skating.

“I didn’t watch the performances of the other skaters, so I don’t think it makes a difference whether or not I accept this,” she said. “I don’t have any regrets, and because it ended, that’s that.”

“There have been times in other competitions as well when the score did not reflect my performance, no matter how well I did, to the point of being strange. I imagine various scenarios before the competition: doing well, not receiving a good score and coming in second place. Because I imagined a lot of things yesterday, I don’t think it was that surprising.”

Despite deal, Ukraine peace remains elusive

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Under heavy pressure from the West after a deadly day of clashes and sniper fire in the capital, President Viktor Yanukovich and opposition leaders struck a deal Friday aimed at bringing Ukraine’s three-month political crisis to an end. But radical protesters and some pro-Russian factions rejected it, leaving lingering doubts over whether peace could be restored.

On a day of electrifying developments, the Ukrainian parliament also opened a path for Yulia Tymoshenko—Yanukovich’s political nemesis — to be let out of prison.

In spite of what looked like a significant government retreat, protesters booed opposition figures who took to a stage Friday evening to present the deal, which cuts Yanukovich’s powers and calls for early elections but falls short of demands for his immediate resignation.

“Death to the criminal!” some chanted, referring to Yanukovich.

“Resign! Resign! Resign!” shouted others as one radical speaker threatened to go on an armed offensive if the opposition

doesn’t demand the president’s resignation by this morning.

Addressing the crowd in Kiev’s Independence Square, opposition leader Vitali Klitschko tried to persuade them that Yanukovich had likely given all he was willing to give.

“He’s not going to resign. This isn’t realistic. We have to think about realistic steps,” Klitschko said.

The agreement signed Friday calls for presidential elections to be moved up from March 2015 to no later than December, but many protesters said that is far too late. And it does not address the issue that set off the protests in November — Yanukovich’s abandonment of closer ties with the European Union in favor of a bailout deal with longtime ruler Russia.

The standoff between the government and protesters escalated this week, as demonstrators clashed with police and snipers opened fire in the worst violence the country has seen since the breakup of the Soviet Union a quarter-century ago.

Climate

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battle ... for the future of our planet,” Whitehouse said. “There is an opportunity for Rhode Island to lead by example.”

The council is expected to issue a preliminary report on its findings and recommendations by May, with annual reports expected thereafter.

The council will be led by Janet Coit, director of the state Department of Environmental Management,

and will include leaders from the state’s Coastal Resources Management Council and the departments of administration, transportation, health, energy and emergency management along with the state’s Commerce Corp.

The group will be short lived if it’s abolished by the next governor. Chafee is not seeking re-election and his term expires at the start of 2015. But Chafee said he’s confident voters will pick a candidate who sees the need to continue the council’s work.

WEATHER

COASTAL RHODE ISLAND

Today, sunny, breezy. High near 43. Tonight, mostly clear, breezy. Low around 34.

EXTENDED

Sunday, partly sunny. High near 43. Sunday night, mostly cloudy with a chance of rain, then snow showers. Low around 30.

Monday, mostly sunny. High near 34. Monday night, partly cloudy. Low around 22.

Tuesday, partly sunny. High near 30.

MARINE

Today, southwest wind

10-15 knots with gusts up to 20 knots. Waves 2-3 feet. Tonight, southwest wind 10-15 knots with gusts to 20 knots. Waves 2-3 feet.

Sunday, west wind 10-15 knots. Waves 2-3 feet. Sunday night, west wind 10-15 knots. Waves around 2 feet.

TIDES

Today’s sunrise 6:30, sunset 5:29. High tides: 12:31 a.m., 12:57 p.m. Low tides: 6:06 a.m., 6:11 p.m. Sunday’s sunrise 6:29, sunset 5:29. High tides: 1:30 a.m., 1:59 p.m. Low tides: 7:27 a.m., 7:25 p.m. Friday’s temperature: high 53, low 34.



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