WHO are you?

GENEALOGY ·N·E·W·S·

OCTOBER 2018

The Sussex lanes were very lovely in
the autumn. I started going for
long lone country walks
among the spendthrift gold and
glory of the year-end,
giving myself up to the earth-scents
and the sky-winds and all the
magic of the countryside
which is ordained
for the healing of the soul

~ Monica Baldwin, I leap over the Wall. 1951

6PM October 10th

Rhode Island Commission on Historical Cemeteries

Peggy Malcolm *Chairwoman*

"I hear you like cemeteries…"

That's how Margaret, Peggy Malcolm got started almost 20 years ago. Beside the RI Commission, she chairs the Warwick Commission on Historical Cemeteries as well.

What is the Commission?

According to the Secretary of State: "There is created a permanent advisory commission to study the location, condition, and inventory of historical cemeteries in Rhode Island and to make recommendations to the general assembly relative to historical cemeteries in Rhode Island. It is our hope to formulate and develop plans and programs to restore, rehabilitate and maintain historical cemeteries and locate sources of funds such as grants and individual or corporate sponsors."

We will learn…

What the Cemetery Commission does –that important task to preserve the past in stone – information that is so valuable to we as ancestral sleuths. We will also hear more about the website rihistoriccemeteries.org, and perhaps we will learn what we can do to help preserve the past.

Journalist **Arthur Brisbane** is purported to have said:

The fence around a cemetery is foolish,
for those inside can't come out
and those outside don't want to get in.

Mohr Library Genealogy Group

2nd Wednesday, 4:30 Special Program times vary

Library Hours

Mon – Thurs 9-8 ♦ Friday 9 – 6 ♦ Saturday 9 – 5

This newsletter is created and written by Grayce Moorehead, MILS email: gmoorehead@mohrlibrary.org

Upcoming GENEALOGY Programs

- **October 24 all day**

New England Historical Genealogical Society (NEHGS) Field Trip

- **November 14 5:30PM**

"Genealogy - Separating Fact from Fiction and How the Rhode Island State Archives can Help"

Ashley Selima, *State Archivist & Public Records Administrator* ***and***
Rich Hite, *State Records Coordinator*

Other Programs of Interest

- **October 17, Wednesday, 6:30pm**

Legends & Haunts of Rhode Island *with* Presenter **Tom D'Agostino**. Learn about so many places in RI that appear to be haunted. A powerpoint presentation.

- **November 5, Monday, 6:30pm**

History Series: Italy: the City of Rome through the Centuries. Prof. Beth Shinn (Roger Williams University and RIC) will give an engaging and fascinating powerpoint presentation – you will be amazed at how much you learn in just one hour!

- **November 6, Tuesday, 6:30pm**

Cultural Travel to Italy, the Sweeneys
"…showcasing the culturally significant architecture of the northern Italian cities of Milan, Genoa and Parma, and the northern lake district of Baveno featuring Lakes Maggiore and Como including magnificent seaside towns of Santa Margherita, Portofino and the Cinque Terre."

- **November 12 Monday**

Veteran's Day, Library is closed

- **November 13, Tuesday, 6:30pm**

History Series: Italy: the Pope and Mussolini in WWII, Prof. Beth Shinn
Add to your knowledge of World War II with this eye opening conversation – with power-point about the role of the Vatican, the Jews saved and the role of the Catholic religion and the Germans.

NEHGS Field Trip 3 SEATS LEFT

Wednesday, October 24 – all day

This is an all day bus trip to Boston

- **Plans:** We will arrive in time to attend a **FREE** program from 12 noon to 1pm:
  "Raising the Dead: finding clues to ancestors from headstones, family plots, and burial records"
  presented by David Allen Lambert, *Chief Genealogist*
- After 1pm we will have a tour of the facility followed by a short time to look around on your own.
- The bus-- from the Johnston Senior Center will pick us up at the Mohr Library about 9:30 am, and you can leave your car in the library parking lot.
- $15.00 fee is for the tour of NEHGS *plus*
- $15.00 fee for the bus *plus*
- Bus driver fee rate of $15.00/hour divided by the amount of people on the bus.
- ***Be sure to bring a snack for yourself as we probably will not have time for a sit down luncheon.***

There is still room! I have 12 signed up and the bus holds 15. I will be away from the library from Sept. 20 to October 3.

Borrowed from "Citizen Sketcher" https://citizensketcher.com

Genealogy Marketplace! Saturday, Oct. 20 10-12

Aldrich House, 110 Benevolent Street, Providence, RI 02906
"Shop" many of Rhode Island's historical societies, public libraries, and other cultural heritage institutions. Explore the state's rich genealogical resources and learn how to access the extensive genealogical resources provided.
Pat and Deb will "woman" our table. Anyone else?

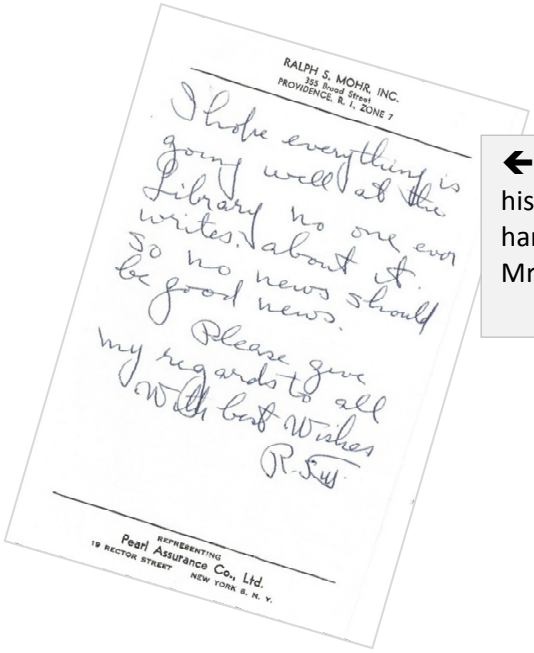
Suggestions?

It has been a hugely successful year for Mohr Genealogy Group with gracious presenters who have given their time & expertise to educate and help those of us dedicated to learning more about our ancestors. **Providence Public Library** and the **RIHS** gave a special program. So what is next? Please forward suggestions and ideas on how we can top an outstanding year!

Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library

One Memorial Avenue ■ Johnston, RI 02919 ■ 401-231-4980 ■ fax: 401-231-4984 ■ website: http://www.mohrlibrary.org

A tribute to Ralph S. Mohr, founder of the Library and the Graves Registration Commission.


RALPH S. MOHR, INC.
325 Broad Street
PROVIDENCE, R. I., ZONE 7

I hope everything is going well at the Library no one ever writes about it. So no news should be good news.

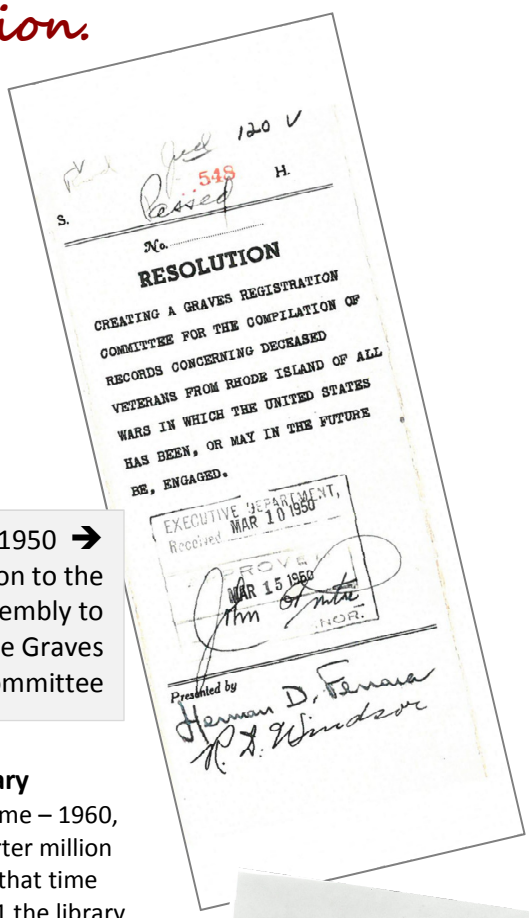
Please give my regards to all

With best Wishes

R. S. M.

REPRESENTING
Pearl Assurance Co., Ltd.
19 RECTOR STREET NEW YORK 6, N. Y.

← A note in his own handwriting from Mr. Mohr


120 V

S. Passed 548 H.

No.

RESOLUTION

CREATING A GRAVES REGISTRATION COMMITTEE FOR THE COMPILATION OF RECORDS CONCERNING DECEASED VETERANS FROM RHODE ISLAND OF ALL WARS IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN, OR MAY IN THE FUTURE BE, ENGAGED.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, Received MAR 10 1950

APPROVED MAR 15 1950

Presented by Herman D. Ferrara
R. S. Windsor

1950 →
Resolution to the General Assembly to create the Graves Registration Committee

Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library, **Johnston's Public Library** was founded by Ralph S. Mohr who dedicated the library to his wife. At the time – 1960, he donated $25,000 – matched by the town --of his own money (about a quarter million dollars in today's dollars) to fund a library for the Town of Johnston, which at that time had NO public library. It took persistence and donations, but on June 17, 1961 the library opened with much anticipation and fanfare. The Dedication booklet lists hundreds of people who contributed or pledged books after a $35,000 fund drive:

> **The Observer** article of Thursday, Oct. 6, 1960 : "The uncovering of a giant billboard in front of the Johnston Town Hall last Saturday marked the official kick offof the drive for funds to purchase books for the Marian J. Mohr Library. The $35,000 goa, which it is hoped will be reached by January 1 will allow for the purchase of 10,000 books. The tall thermometer, which is part of the sign donated by Standish Johnson Co. will register the weekly progress of the drive…"

Contractor
LEROY ERICKSON, JR.
Photography Courtesy of the "Observer"
Architect
DONALD J. FROUT

Johnston - Biography

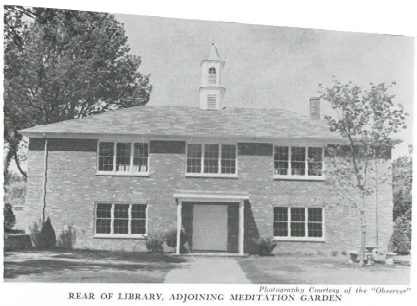
Johnston's Most Outstanding Citizen

CHOSEN AS "OUTSTANDING JOHNSTONIAN" Ralph S. Mohr of 2308 Hartford Avenue accepts a plaque honoring his accomplishments from Robert Pirraglia, co-chairman of the Johnston Bicentennial Commission, at a dinner and awards night held as a part of the town's Bicentennial celebration last week. Mr. Mohr was selected because since 1930 he has been a non-partisan community activist, is responsible for Johnston Memorial Park, and gave the Town its only library. Mr. Mohr served on the planning board for many years while Johnston was growing from a small rural community to the thriving town it is today. He is credited with writing the only definitive history of Johnston and has also written a history of Rhode Island. Among his other accomplishments the commission felt that he was one of the few people in the town who had over the years maintained an interest in preserving and restoring its historical -Photo by Angelo Martinosci, Jr.

Note

We who study our ancestors realize the importance and respect we have for those who go before us. There are many documents, books and scrapbooks in our Johnston files about Ralph S. Mohr. If you would like to see the resources for him or other information, please ask. And a shout out to my dedicated volunteers who have spent so many selfless hours reviving our vertical files!!

~ Grayce


Photography Courtesy of the "Observer"
REAR OF LIBRARY, ADJOINING MEDITATION GARDEN

Photography Courtesy of the "Observer"
MEDITATION GARDEN
Designed by Ralph S. Mohr
Entire Landscaping the Gift of
ACCIARDO BROTHERS, JOHNSTON
Angelo Acciardo, Jr. Albert Acciardo

Ralph Mohr, 85; wrote two books on R.I. history

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — Ralph S. Mohr, 85, of 1829 Washington St., author of "The Rhode Island Governors For 300 Years" and "Rhode Island Footprints On the Sands of Time," formerly of Hartford Avenue, Johnston, died March 27. He was the husband of the late Marion J. (Hohler) Mohr.

Born in Malden, Mass., a son of the late Henry and Sarah Mohr, he lived in Florida since 1977. In 1974 he was cited as Johnston's most outstanding citizen by the town's Bicentennial Commission, which gave him an award in gratitude for his work in supporting the restoration of the historic Farnum House on Putnam Pike.

In 1934 he founded the Ralph S. Mohr Inc. Insurance Co. of Cranston, which he operated until he retired. Active in the American Legion, a gold life member of Hobson-Mendes Post 41 and the first commander of the post, he was the R.I. department junior vice-commander and the R.I. department commander of the post. He was a member of the National Executive Committee and was the grand chief de gare of the R.I. Department Historian and the R.I. Department Graves Registration Officer for many years.

An Army veteran of World War I, he founded the overseas Lodge 40 F&AM. During World War II, he was on the Board of Selective Service in Johnston and North Providence and was its secretary for seven years. Congress awarded him a medal for that service.

Mr. Mohr was responsible for having the Memorial plaque for veterans placed at the city hall in Johnston. In 1969, he founded the Marion J. Mohr Memorial Library in Johnston in memory of his wife. He was a member of St. John's Commandery 1 North Scituate; the Scottish Rite of Cranston; Palestine Temple Shrine; Providence Royal Arch Chapter 1 and the Providence Council 1 R&FM.

He leaves a sister, Mrs. Ruth Johnson of Attleboro, Mass., and a brother, Michael Mohr of Port Jefferson, N.Y.

A graveside committal service will be held April 23 at 2 p.m. at Quidnessett Memorial Cemetery, North Kingstown.

Obituary of Ralph Sigismund Mohr

Found in a book (bookmark) by Ralph at a Flea Market by

Lou McGowan

President, Johnston Historical Society

Images by Beth Hurd, graves