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Anonymous

1922 Indian Graves Unearthed at Charlestown. Rhode Island Historical Society Collections, Vol. 15, No. 1, pp. 18-19. Providence.

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RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY *Collections Vol. 15, pp. 18-19*

has just been issued by the Massachusetts Society of the Colonial Dames of America, contains considerable material of Rhode Island interest. In addition to listing a large number of Rhode Island samplers, it includes an account of the work of Polly Balch's school in Providence, thus throwing light on a little known phase of local education.

We have received several requests for Volume 11, No. 4, and Volume 13, No. 2, of our "Collections." As our supply of these numbers is exhausted, we can only fill these requests through the generosity of some of our members.

The manuscript account book of Joseph Williams, son of Roger, covering the years 1705 to 1731, has been received as a bequest from the late Mrs. Josephine H. White.

### Indian Graves Unearthed at Charlestown

In October, Mr. T. L. Arnold of Arnolda, Charlestown, R. I., while digging a cellar unearthed an old Indian burial ground. The first object discovered was an ancient breech-loading cannon, which was very badly rusted. It lay only a couple of feet beneath the surface. Near it but slightly deeper was found a skeleton. Beside the skeleton was a rather long sword beyond which was discovered another skeleton. The graves were scarcely three feet long indicating that the bodies were probably buried in a curled up position as was often done by the Indians. Three copper kettles, some beads, a clay pipe stem and a tube of blue glass which evidently was the material from which beads were to be cut, although most of the beads found were shell wampum. A few pieces of very coarse blue cloth, perhaps a sort of burlap, were found attached to pieces of copper and bone.

The sword had a rather elaborate guard and although badly rusted still retained some of its spring. Within the distance of fifteen or twenty feet parts of three other skeletons were

discovered although the skulls of these latter skeletons were not found. Some teeth and jawbones of some small animals such as dogs, cats or skunks were also found. Two Indian shell heaps were discovered nearby the graves. These shell heaps had been covered by dirt indicating that a natural surface deposit had taken place. A large hunk of red coloring matter (war paint) was also discovered.

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