

RHODE ISLAND SHEEP COOPERATIVE  
PRESS RELEASE

In 2012 the Sheep Cooperative sponsored an essay contest for those 18 and under to name the 2012 Rhody Warm Blanket pattern. Each year the RI Sheep Cooperative wool is woven into blankets using a single pattern, and the tradition is that the pattern is named after a "Lost Village" of Rhode Island. The winning 2012 essay was written by Sal Krekorian, 11 years old, of Wakefield, RI. Sal's won a Kindle Fire for his essay about Little Rest, Rhode Island, and the 2012 Rhody Warm Blanket was aptly named *Little Rest*.



**Lost Little Rest**

By Sal Krekorian

Age 11

Do you know where Little Rest is? Little Rest, Rhode Island started in 1657. It was part of the Pettasquamscutt Purchase. After the Great Swamp fight, Connecticut and Massachusetts soldiers took a "little rest" on Kingston Hill on the way back to Smith's Castle. After King Phillip's War a lot of settlers started to come to Little Rest. The town steadily grew. Houses and shops were built and also a courthouse and jail. In 1825 Little Rest was changed to the name Kingston. No one knows exactly why the name was changed. Kingston was going into decline because Peacedale and Wakefield had mills where people lived and worked. In 1847 the Kingston Railroad was made. Now there was no more need for a stagecoach stop in Kingston and not many people lived there.

Halfway down Kingston Hill (on Route 138) is Biscuit City Road. Here there is a pond where there was a cotton mill. A group of

men from Little Rest bought land in Biscuit City to build a cotton Mill and called it the Narragansett Cotton Manufactory. In 1809 the mill began operations. The mill was three stories tall and thirty feet wide and sixty feet long. It was surrounded by six other buildings where the workers lived. Workers worked 16 hours a day, only stopping for meals. Daughters of farmers worked in the cotton mill including young children. The cotton mill stopped in 1814 and in 1819 the mill was sold to Rowse Clarke. Clarke made in a carriage and farm wagon factory. Clarke failed and in 1830 he sold in to Solomon Harley who made it into a grist mill. By the 1890's the mill wasn't being used anymore.

Some things have changed since the town was Little Rest. The courthouse is now the Kingston Free Library. The jail is no longer in use, but you can still visit it. The Biscuit City mill pond was recently cleared of trees by the South Kingstown Land Trust. You can visit the ruins of the mill, the six outbuildings, a root cellar and well.

Little Rest is a great name for a Rhody Warm blanket because you can take a little rest under it!

Soon the 2013 blanket making process will begin, with the spring shearing of sheep all over Rhode Island, and the RI Sheep Cooperative is sponsoring another essay to name the 2013 blanket, and once again the winner will receive a Kindle Fire!

The essay contest is open to those 18 and under and rules for entering the contest can be found on the RI Sheep Cooperative website <http://www.risheep.org/essay-contest.htm>.