



Media inquiries contact:
Angela Brunetti
Development & Marketing Associate
401-846-0813 x110
abrunetti@newporthistory.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Culture of Corruption *The Apothecary's Tale*

Newport, RI – June, 2017 – Newport was one of the earliest American seaports to engage in the transatlantic drug trade during the first third of the eighteenth century. On **Thursday, August 17, 2017 at 5:30 pm**, the Newport Historical Society will host Dr. Elaine Forman Crane for a lecture titled *A Culture of Corruption: The Apothecary's Tale*. At a time when both the production and sale of pharmaceuticals were unregulated on this side of the Atlantic, Newport's unlicensed apothecaries were free to advise and dispense the most dangerous substances. Drug ingredients from several continents were compounded in London, tampered with en route to New England, and costly when prescribed locally. Even more threatening to the consumer, apothecaries often adulterated drugs, a tactic that reduced the product's efficacy while enhancing the apothecary's profit.

Dr. Crane is a Distinguished Professor of History Emerita at Fordham University, where she teaches courses on American constitutional and legal history, the American colonies and Revolution, and women's history and gender roles in America. She has published numerous articles and is the author of noted books such as "Witches, Wife Beaters, and Whores: Common Law and Common Folk in Early America"; "Killed Strangely: The Death of Rebecca"; "Ebb Tide in New England: Women, Seaports, and Social Change 1630-1800"; and "A Dependent People: Newport, Rhode Island in the Revolutionary Era". She is also the editor of "The Diary of Elizabeth Drinker" and the editor of *Early American Studies*, an interdisciplinary journal. She is currently working on a non-fiction book called the "Poison Plot".

"*A Culture of Corruption*" takes place at the NHS Resource Center, 82 Touro Street, Newport, RI, and costs \$5 per person, \$1 for NHS members, active and retired military with ID. Please RSVP online at NewportHistory.org or call 401-841-8770.

About the Newport Historical Society

Since 1854, the Newport Historical Society has collected and preserved the artifacts, photographs, documents, publications, and genealogical records that relate to the history of Newport County, to make these materials readily available for both research and enjoyment, and to act as a resource center for the education of the public about the history of Newport County, so that knowledge of the past may contribute to a fuller understanding of the present. For more information please visit www.NewportHistory.org.

###