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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### ***Step Into Revolutionary History with the Newport Historical Society on July 15th***

**Newport, RI – June, 2017** – Saturday, July 15, 2017, “Newport in 1777: A History Space Event” will focus on life during the British army and navy’s presence in the city during the American Revolution, and feature the period artisanship of leather working expert Roy Najecki.

Leather was used in many products in the 18th century, such as saddles, shoes, trunks, harnesses and water buckets. Creating necessary equipment for soldiers was a specialized focus within this trade. Roy will demonstrate how to create leather ammunition cases and accessories used by New England militia soldiers. A seasoned living historian and Rhode Island native, Najecki has been producing 18th century military accoutrements since 1980 and has demonstrated his work at many historic sites across New England, including Minuteman National Historical Park.

Revolution House will also be open to guests for a special glimpse into the choices and challenges faced by free and enslaved Newport families, both loyalists and patriots, during the British occupation. The experience will include interactive opportunities for visitors to place themselves in the historical moment.

**Admission is free for both Revolution House activities, although donations are welcome. The House and demonstration will be available to visit from 10 am – 2 pm.**

Finally, Newport History Tours will add context to the day’s theme by presenting the July Tour of the Month — “The British in Newport” — at 11am. In 1777 as the Revolutionary War officially began, 7,000 British and Hessian soldiers invaded Newport creating an occupation that lasted for nearly 3 years. The British in Newport tour explores the sites and stories of the soldiers and citizens effected during this time. Meet a costumed interpreter portraying Newport resident Mary Almy. Learn why the British targeted Newport, how their presence in the 1770s changed the city in the following decades, and how this impacted the colonial architecture that Newport is famous for today.

**Tickets for the tours cost \$20 per person, \$15 for Newport Historical Society members and active duty military. Reservations, which are required for the tours, can be made by calling the Brick Market Museum at 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](http://www.NewportHistory.org).

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