INNOVATION & CHANGE

INSIDE

Revolution House
Challenging the Future
Reproduction Shoes
Stamp Act Protest
Timeline of Newport's 375 Years
Newport Crossword
INNOVATION & CHANGE

We say Newport is wonderful because it has not changed much, and often tout the fact that we have about three hundred structures still standing that pre-date the Revolution. Visitors love Newport’s timeless quality and look to us at the NHS to help them understand and interpret that. Certainly historical societies are not traditionally epicenters of change. Quite the opposite—we are generally tasked with preserving and protecting, activities which, for the most part, seem to limit change.

But is our mission in fact to be the guardians of a static vision of the past? Preserving the past is much like forecasting the weather: the universe of potentially relevant information is so huge that the practitioner must limit the things to be considered, and the data points deemed relevant define the outcome, for good or for ill. We are, as I recently heard at a conference on Heritage and Healthy Communities at the University of Massachusetts, defining what we want our futures to be when we make decisions about what to preserve. In fact, we are “curating” our futures by choosing what is important in the past; managing and defining the inevitable change that comes with the passage of time. Which, perhaps, makes historical societies particularly useful to any discussion of managing change. Here in Newport, one could suggest that there is in fact less conflict between studying the past and supporting approaches to egress, climate control and collections storage. Planning is the era while also stressing the connections among local and international political, cultural and social influences. It will incorporate recent scholarship on the American Revolution, which has added the perspectives of African-Americans, women, the poor, and other groups to more traditional studies of political and military history.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, this interpretation will draw attention to the Newport Historical Society’s remarkable collection of Revolutionary artifacts, using these objects to tell local and national stories of the Revolution in a way which will appeal to everyone. Revolution House will debut in a limited opening in the fall of 2015.

The Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House on Broadway has been owned by the Historical Society since the 1920s. Presented over the years as a traditional house museum, the house has been open to visitors who are invited to tour the house and imagine what it was like to live in Newport during the city’s earliest times.

The Revolution House project will transform the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House into Newport’s only museum devoted to the American Revolution. The WLH House is an appropriate venue for this endeavor, as it was the site of activities, and home to individuals, significant to the build-up to and the conduct of the Revolution.

The museum will highlight Newport’s contributions to and experience of the era while also stressing the connections among local and international political, cultural and social influences. It will incorporate recent scholarship on the American Revolution, which has added the perspectives of African-Americans, women, the poor, and other groups to more traditional studies of political and military history.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, this interpretation will draw attention to the Newport Historical Society’s remarkable collection of Revolutionary artifacts, using these objects to tell local and national stories of the Revolution in a way which will appeal to everyone. Revolution House will debut in a limited opening in the fall of 2015.
In 2012 the Newport Historical Society initiated a capital campaign, entitled “Challenging the Future,” directed toward three goals which represent the foundation of our envisioned future.

- Development, through modernization of the existing 1915 headquarters building, of a Resource Center for the study, interpretation and understanding of Newport’s history.
- Creation of endowed funds to support the functions which are most responsible for providing access to Newport’s history for the public: The Curatorial and Education Departments.
- A redevelopment of the Museum Store with a vibrant presence at the Brick Market, including increased retail opportunities.

The first phase of the campaign, the modernization of our Resource Center, is underway; work began the first week in August, in a phased plan. Phase I includes mostly exterior work like the creation of a new driveway between Touro and Barney Streets, and preparations for the construction of the elevator tower and new entrance. Updated electrical service to the building will also be supplied. We expect to complete this work before the cold weather comes with minimal disruption to the NHS’ programs and services.

More extensive work both inside and out will follow, culminating in a modern, highly functioning Resource Center.

Collections will be properly stored and protected, and the building will function effectively for researchers, visitors and staff. There is no doubt that productivity will increase, and that services to researchers and the public will improve along with general collections care, while increases in budget size will be moderate.

A museum-specific climate control consultant (William Wladyka) was hired to work with the project architect (NewPort Architecture’s Mohamad Farzan) and his team of engineers to design climate systems for the new building. Wladyka’s plan will allow the carrying costs of the new system to be approximately the same as energy costs for heat and light only at the current time, while still providing a protected and stable environment for collections.

Of course, if you are interested in helping complete this effort, please call the NHS office!

Challenging the Future

Campaign Status

Campaign Goals:
- Bricks & Mortar ........................................... $3,000,000
- Education Department ................................ $1,000,000
- Curatorial Department ................................  $1,500,000
- Total Campaign Goals: ................................... $5,500,000

Campaign Status:
- Gifts & Pledges ........................................... $2,115,500
- Total to Raise: ................................................ $3,384,500

Sources:
- Foundations .................................................. $1,456,000
- Board members ............................................ $496,500
- Other individuals ........................................... $161,000
- Totals: ......................................................... $2,115,500

顏 色

Challenging the Future
EXHIBITS

Flowers of the Ocean: A History of Seaweed Collecting in Newport
Through October 2014; Museum of Newport History

Flowers of the Ocean is a new exhibit about the historical appeal and process of seaweed specimen collecting. Kate Duffy, 2014 Buchanan/ Burnham Fellow at the Newport Historical Society and PhD student at Brown University, served as curator. The exhibit grew out of Kate’s interest in the world of natural history collecting in late 19th-century Newport. Research in the Newport Historical Society collection led her to a box filled with hundreds of dried seaweeds, a vast variety gathered and arranged by different collectors. Some collectors identified their seaweeds, labeling each one with its Latin name. Another collector used algae to decorate an album filled with souvenir photographs of the Old Stone Mill, local beaches, and other Newport scenes.

“Seaweed collecting was a popular hobby in Newport from about 1850 to 1900, especially among women,” explains Kate. “Naturalists pulled seaweeds from the briny depths and pressed them on paper. They considered this to be a wholesome and uplifting way to spend free time.” By transforming tangles of algae into delicate arrangements, collectors expressed their interest in the natural world and appreciation for its beauty. The algae specimens they gathered became a medium for souvenirs of crafts and scientific study.

Past Meets Present: An Exhibit of Composite Photographs
Through October 2014; Colony House

Presented by The Newport Historical Society & Photographer Lew Keen

With the popularity of social media, it’s not surprising that the inspiration for Newport Historical Society’s exhibit Past Meets Present stemmed from a digitally altered photograph that “went viral.”

“In early April, photographer and supporter of the NHS Lew Keen emailed us an image that united a late 19th-century view of Thames Street with a modern view from the same perspective,” Executive Director Ruth Taylor explained. “We posted this on Facebook and within a few hours received an overwhelmingly positive response.”

Inspired by the dozens of shares and “likes” the image received, the Historical Society partnered with Keen to present an exhibit of photographs based upon this theme. Using selected historic photographs from the NHS collection with modern shots of the same location, the exhibit of thirteen images opened to an appreciative crowd during this year’s Fourth of July festivities at the Colony House on Washington Square.

As a long-time historic preservationist and a fairly new photographer, I thoroughly enjoyed creating these visions of Newport’s historic streetscapes,” said Keen. “This project places historic images of Newport in the context of what visitors see and experience today. I hope that Past Meets Present enhances our appreciation for Newport’s built environment through the overlapping of what has been lost with today’s view. Placing images from the past and present in the same frame helps viewers easily identify the locations. And seeing what has been lost in context with what still stands suggests that our role as caretakers of these remarkable treasures has not been without some losses—and encourages us to do better for the future.”

“During this year of Newport’s 375th anniversary, Past Meets Present is an ideal enhancement to the festivities at the Colony House on Washington Square.”

50 Objects that Shaped Rhode Island History… a Selection
Loan Exhibit, Newport Antiques Show 2014

Rhode Island may be a small state, but its influence has been felt the world over. Founded by settlers unlikely to be welcome elsewhere in the colonies, Rhode Island’s history of innovation in thought, in work, in artistry, at war, and in leisure illustrates what is possible when peoples from around the globe live and work side by side. The source of the American notion of religious freedom, Rhode Island has also been a cauldron of the American Revolution, the first port of the American Navy, birthplace of the Industrial Revolution, an international resort, and so much more.

Rhode Island is a place where rebellious women thrived, where African Americans created businesses, where artists painted, wrote and composed, where intellectually conversed, and where sportmen set records. This state has been defined by its relationship to the sea and waterways, its peoples’ willingness to argue and even take up arms over ideas; yet their simultaneous tolerance for difference, their spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship, and their continued interest in international engagement. These distinguishing characteristics are not limited to a single period or region; they are threads that can be pulled through time and space.

In exploring the idea of the 50 things that shaped Rhode Island’s history, staff at the Rhode Island and Newport Historical Societies had the advantage of both organizations holding extraordinary collections on which to draw. The collections of the two Historical Societies on Rhode Island’s history embodied Look for more of the 50 objects in the months to come.

Headturners
This digital exhibit is free to enjoy by visiting: http://j.mp/headturners

The Newport Historical Society is pleased to announce the debut of its latest digital exhibit, Headturners: Expressions of Social Change through Millinery Fashion 1790-1970. Available on the NHS Explore Historic Newport app, this exhibit focuses on a rarely seen subsection of the Society’s large costume and textile collection. It explores and illustrates historical connections between cultural and political eras and events, and their effects on millinery fashions.

For centuries women’s hats have been essential to the wardrobe and proper dress, conveying information about the wearer’s social class, modesty, profession, and activities. Long a mandatory element of a respectable woman’s appearance, hats have become rarities in contemporary culture. In this sampling of millinery objects from the Newport Historical Society’s collection, the impact of a variety of social and political events are reflected in the design of each hat.

A Turban Hat

The 1950s saw the revival of full skirts, which achieved a voluminous quality with tulle petticoats. This Christian Dior turban utilizes the fullness of tulle to create an evening-appropriate accessory. The House of Christian Dior dominated couture in the 1950s and continued to thrive when Yves Saint Laurent took over following Dior’s death in 1957.

This hat was rediscovered this summer as our team worked to inventory and rehouse our collection of costume accessories.
Culture as Catalyst: Catalyzing Culture

For over a year the executive directors of the Newport Historical Society, the Newport Restoration Foundation, the Redwood Library, the Preservation Society of Newport County, and the Rhode Island Historical Society have been quietly meeting. This work, conducted in a variety of locations, and facilitated by staff and consultants of the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, focused originally on a single question: How can we, working together, be more successful at telling the story of Newport’s history to the broadest possible audience?

The project, called Culture as Catalyst: Catalyzing Culture and funded through the van Beuren Charitable Foundation, has completed a year of planning and is now ready to launch three years of programming to explore many possibilities for deeply collaborative work that serves our community, our organizations, and Newport’s history.

This project will engage noted, respected practitioners of relevant disciplines to become visiting catalysts to spend time in Newport. Catalysts will be artists, scholars or other specialists who have experience thinking about, practicing and leading innovation.

They will work with visiting committees comprised of members of the local community to create a project that relates to Newport’s history and heritage in a new way of looking at it, thinking about it, or sharing it with the public. Alternatively, the catalysts may examine existing efforts in the history and heritage sector within the City and work with local practitioners to improve and expand these activities. Throughout the next three years, events which provide for the community a window into the activities of the project will also be scheduled. A web presence will be a large component of the transparency of the project.

At the end of three years, the Catalyzing Culture project will culminate in the Newport Fair – a grand Newport-wide, multi-format showcase that blends exhibition and exposition in collaboration with local, national and international partners. This event will engage the entire City in a celebration of Newport’s history and heritage. We cannot wait.

Catalyzing Culture will launch for the public on September 19th, when the website will become available. We will be linking to the site on www.NewportHistory.org, so stay in touch.

Timeless Style

The Newport Historical Society is pleased to announce a partnership with historical footwear company American Duchess, formed to create a pair of women’s dress shoes based on a pair of Edwardian shoes in the NHS costume collection.

For the The Seabury shoe, two design concepts are being developed: a dove grey version and a version in black. They will be available for purchase both at the Historical Society’s Brick Market Museum & Shop and also online at American-Duchess.com.

“This classic design will be great not only for historic costumers but for everyone,” comments NHS Executive Director Ruth Taylor. “We are looking forward to wearing these shoes.”

The Seabury design is based on a silk and brocade shoe with leather sole and 2½” French heel in the Society’s collection.

“...The Seabury is not known, but she wore a size 6.

Finding Aids

For serious scholars and researchers. Completed finding aids for formally arranged archives and manuscript collections. This resource allows users to access finding aids in several formats (either PDF or the web via RIAMCO) and features transcriptions or images of archival material when available.

Archives and Manuscripts Collection Inventory

For serious scholars and researchers. A PDF available for download that represents the first step in an ongoing process to provide scholar and researcher access while more formal processing is underway. While this spreadsheet contains many unprocessed or unarranged collections and may contain incomplete information or inaccuracies, it is the first time in the Society’s history that a comprehensive manuscript resource has been made available to the public.

Newport History Online

Free for NHS members or subscribers. Past issues of the NHS’ academic journal, Newport History, are available for download through Salve University. Access to this database is a benefit of membership. Year-long subscriptions can also be purchased for $30. To inquire about subscribing, please call us at (401) 846-0813.

Digital Exhibits

For everyone: historians, scholars, history buffs, Newport residents, tourists.

As part of Explore Historic Newport, visitors can view current and past exhibits displayed at the Museum of Newport History. Also available are born-digital exhibits on various Newport related topics, such as the Common Burying Ground Mapping Project, Hurricanes in Newport, and the Consumer Revolution in Newport.

Explore Historic Newport

For everyone: historians, scholars, history buffs, Newport residents, tourists.

This web-based app is accessible with any internet-capable device, including desktop computers. It synthesizes educational content, such as walking tours and other scholarship, with collections items such as historical photographs. The app’ GPS enabled interactive map pinpoints nearby historic sites. Developed with founding sponsor, Lila Delman Real Estate. Now you can download this app from the Apple AppStore and Android GooglePlay!
Everyone who experiences the Newport Antiques Show understands that it is an opportunity to see and shop for remarkable antiques. But it is also a fundraiser that is vital to the Newport community. As the country’s only high-end antiques show with two beneficiaries—the Newport Historical Society and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County—this Show has raised a cumulative total of over $1.6 million in support of Newport’s past and Newport’s future.

This year we welcomed American Realty Capital/RCS Capital as Presenting Sponsor, and Franklin & Company Design Associates as the Gala Preview Party Sponsor. Their generous participation helped to make this Show a great success.

The Newport Antiques Show has grown, first and foremost, from the dynamism, drive and commitment of Show Chair Anne Hamilton. Personally involved with all aspects of the planning and preparation for the Show since the very beginning, each year she takes the helm with extraordinary energy and leadership. We are also fortunate to have our Show Manager Diana Bittel, Facilities Manager, Ralph DiSaia, and many faithful supporters and volunteers.

**Show Events**

- “Big History, Little State: 350 Years in 50 Objects” presented by Kirsten Hammerstrom, Director of Collections, RI Historical Society and Loan Exhibit curator.
- “Fruits of Our Labor: Industry, Immigration and Rhode Island’s Road to Riches” by C. Morgan Grefe, Executive Director, RI Historical Society.
- “Vintage Cars: A Meditation on Collecting” with Nicholas Schorsch, CEO of Presenting Sponsor American Realty Capital.

**Newport Antiques Show 2014**

**Presenting Sponsor**
American Realty Capital-RCS Capital

**Gala Preview Party Sponsor**
Franklin & Company Design Associates

**Chair**
Mrs. S. Matthews V. Hamilton, Jr.

**Honorary Co-Chairs**
Mrs. Robert H. Charles
Mrs. John R. Donnell
Mrs. S. Matthews V. Hamilton, Jr.

**Preview Party Co-Chairs**
Brittain Bardes
Norey Dotterer Cullen
Mrs. Peter D. Kiernan III

**Founders**
Mrs. Russell B. Atkenu
Carol and Lon Ballard
Mr. and Mrs. James J. Coleman, Jr.
Kim and Glenn Darden
Mrs. John R. Donnell
Bill and Jacalyn Egan
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fernandez
Mr. and Mrs. David B. Ford
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Gewirz
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen L. Glasscock
Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Gordon
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Grauer
Mr. and Mrs. S. Matthews V. Hamilton, Jr.
Mrs. Samuel M. V. Hamilton
William M. and Elizabeth Kahane
Mr. and Mrs. Roger E. Kass
Mr. and Mrs. Peter D. Kiernan III
Marguerite and Gerry Lenfest
Mr. Henry Sharpe Lynn, Jr.
Mr. Peter E. Madden
Mr. Brian J. McNally
Doug Newhouse and Holly Bannister
Anna Dale Owen
Frederick and Diana Prince
James and Virginia Purviance
Nicholas S. and Shelley Schorsch
Luis Strauss
Arche and Helene van Beuren
Mrs. John A. van Beuren
Mr. and Mrs. William Vavilka
Mr. and Mrs. William L. Wallace
Buchanan/Burnham Internship Program

This annual program, now in its 12th year, provides an extraordinary opportunity to undergraduate and graduate students interested in a career in public history. Every year, thanks to the generosity of the Buchanan and Burnham families, the selected interns lead public history tours and conduct research in the NHS archives and collections. In the process, they learn about Newport’s important role in American history and experience working in the field of public history and museums. A significant part of the internship is a research project which culminates in a report, presentation or a product such as a collections finding aid, research paper, public program or exhibit.

2014 Buchanan/Burnham Fellows:

Kathrine Duffy
Ph.D. Candidate, American Studies Program, Brown University.
Projects: Exhibit titled “Flowers of the Ocean: A History of Seaweed Collecting in Newport” which opened August 6, 2014 at the Museum of Newport History; and a paper titled “From Virtuous Visions to Rats and Rubbish: The Fall of the Newport Natural History Society, 1883-1915.”

Donald Johnson
Ph.D. Candidate, Northwestern University Department of History.
Projects: interpretive plan for the Newport Historical Society’s Revolution House project at the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House which will incorporate Newport’s Revolutionary heritage with scholarship on the founding era. He is also in the final stages of writing a doctoral dissertation on military occupation during the American Revolution, “Occupied America: Everyday Experiences and the Failure of the Imperial Authority in Revolutionary Cities Under British Rule.”

2014 Buchanan/Burnham Interns:

Jasmine Souza
Senior in the Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design Department, University of Rhode Island.
Projects: Cataloging project of the NHS’ textile collections, including researching and dating, conservation work, and rehousing items; a virtual exhibit, NewportHistoryApp.com, featuring hats from the NHS costume collection titled “Headturners: Expressions of Social Change through Millinery Fashion 1790-1970.”

Margaret Stack
Graduate student, University of Connecticut History Department.
Projects: interpretive plan for the Newport Historical Society’s Revolution House project at the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House which will present Newport’s Revolutionary heritage with scholarship on the founding era; two essays for History Bytes, “Education & Midshipmen in the Antebellum Navy,” and “A Month in the Life: Midshipman Charles Hunter on the USS Potomac, November 1832.”

Douglas Newhouse and his wife Holly Bannister joined the Newport community in 2008 when they purchased Seaweed, a 1860/1903 Colonial Revival home designed by Horace Trumbauer which overlooks Bailey’s Beach. Since arriving in Newport, Doug and Holly have been active on many fronts including the complete restoration of Seaweed, for which they have recently been awarded the Doris Duke Historic Preservation Award by the Newport Restoration Foundation.

Doug has served on the Board of Directors of the Newport Historical Society since 2011. Since joining the board he has been actively involved in the development of Explore Newport History, an award-winning app that allows users to take self-guided tours of Newport using their hand held device as a guide. Doug has also been engaged in the Newport Historical Society’s Capital Campaign, and this past summer Doug and Holly opened their home to host the Newport Antiques Show dealer and patron party. Doug believes that the Historical Society’s mission of preserving the important documents and artifacts of Newport’s past and communicating Newport’s history is important not only for Newporters, but also for those that are interested in American history. According to Doug, “...organizations like the Newport Historical Society provide the critical links from our past to the future.”

In other philanthropic endeavors, Doug is a member of the Board of Trustees of the International Yacht Restoration School (IYRS) in Newport, is past Chairman of the Westport, Connecticut-based Greens Farms Academy Investment Committee on behalf of the Board of Trustees, and is a past board member of the Pequot Library in Southport, Connecticut. Doug has also served as a member of the Undergraduate Business School Council at Cornell University.

Professionally, Doug is a Managing Partner and co-Founder of Sterling Investment Partners of Westport, Connecticut. Sterling is a twenty-five-year-old leading private equity investment company focused on building mid-sized companies. Doug has served on many corporate boards of both public and private companies. He has an MBA from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business and a BS from Cornell University.

Recreationally, Doug is a passionate skier with a home in Stratton Mountain, Vermont. He is a committed, but not particularly good, golfer. Doug is also a sailor and enjoys racing and cruising around Narragansett Bay.

Doug and Holly have two adult children. Olivia, who was recently married at Seaweed in Newport, lives in Boston and is a graduate of Georgetown University. She works in marketing for Digitas. Nick lives in New York, having just graduated from Brown University. He works at The Lodge, a leading sound design firm.
This year’s Newport Craft Beer Festival again drew hundreds of visitors to the Great Friends Meeting House on a cool Saturday in April. The historic structure, built in 1699, provides an ideal setting for the event; Newporters—many Quakers among them—have been brewing beer since long before the Revolutionary War. In two sessions (noon to 3 and 4 to 7pm), guests had the opportunity to meet the brewers and try a wide variety of craft beers from around the country.

Aquidneck Island’s early settlers brought with them the European and English tradition of drinking beer, due—in part—to the presence of pollutants in the water supply. And for those who think that consuming beer would be antithetical to the stern teachings of the Society of Friends, the Newport Quaker brewer Giles Hosier (1725-1806) had a thriving business and rented cellar space in the Colony House to store his beer. Hosier Street today runs between the Colony House and The Fastnet Pub.

Proceeds from this annual event benefit the Rhode Island Brewers Guild and Newport Historical Society. Our thanks to our friends at Pour Judgement Bar & Grill and Newport Storm Brewery, and we look forward to next year.
1639

A Timeline of Newport History

In honor of Newport’s 375th Anniversary on April 28, 2014 our staff created a
timeline of some of the most significant events that have shaped Newport. Here begins
a brief version of the complete timeline that first appeared in the Newport Daily News.

April 29, 1639
The Newport Compact, which formed the basis of the settlement in Newport, was signed by
John Clarke, William Coddington, William Dyer, Nicholas Easton, John Copehagen, William
Brenton, Henry Bullett, Jeremy Clarke, and Thomas Hazard. These early settlers envisioned
a community where religion did not define government and government did not define
religion.

1640
The Rhode Island General Assembly was convened and the Rhode Island Colonies were
established. The Newport Colony had been established.

1648
The Baptist Church was established by Dr. John Clarke. Clarke played a leading role in the affairs of
the colony. He would return to England as the colony’s agent, and for 13 years to obtain a Royal Charter for the colony from King
Charles II. A Royal Charter for the colony from King
Charles II was signed by the colony. He would return to England as the colony’s agent, and for 13 years to obtain a Royal Charter for the colony from King
Charles II. He would return to England as the colony’s agent, and for 13 years to obtain a Royal Charter for the colony from King
Charles II. He would return to England as the colony’s agent, and for 13 years to obtain a Royal Charter for the colony from King
Charles II. He would return to England as the colony’s agent, and for 13 years to obtain a Royal Charter for the colony from King
Charles II.

1657-58
Members of the Society of Friends (Quakers) and Jewish settlers arrive in Newport. Newport’s philosophy of toleration provided an attractive,
safe haven for many religious groups that had been marginalized and persecuted in other
communities.

June 1, 1660
Mary Dyer, an original Newport settler, is hanged on Boston Common for her Quaker beliefs.

July 8, 1663
The Rhode Island Royal Charter granted by King
Charles II. The Charter united Newport and Providence and established freedom of religion
and Liberty of Conscience. For the first time, a European monarch officially approved a policy
of religious tolerance. With the Charter of 1663, Rhode Island’s experiment in religious freedom
was not only legal, but its colonial government was more democratic than that of any other
American colony.

1726
James and Ann Franklin move to Newport with an alm wood press. Within a year of moving to
Newport, James started printing sermons, treaties, and other documents for locals.

1765
The Franklin Press was in operation in Newport from 1726 – 1815 and can be seen on display at
the Museum of Newport History in the Brick Market.

May 4, 1776
John Wilkes Booth is a guest at the Aquidneck
House Hotel in Newport shortly before the assassination of President Lincoln in Washington,
D.C. The hotel was located on the west side of
e Corne Street, between Mill and Pulham Streets.

1869
The United States Naval Torpedo Station is founded on Goat Island as a Navy experimental
station for the development of torpedoes and torpedo equipment, explosives, and electrical
equipment.

1871
Ida is credited with saving 18 lives,
although unofficial reports suggest the number
may have been as high as 26.

1893
American Cup Races move to Newport from
New York.

December 6, 1933
Billy Goode obtains Newport liquor license
No. 1 the day after Prohibition is repealed.

1954
The Newport Jazz Festival featuring the likes of
Billy Holiday, debuts at the Newport Casino.

July 25, 1965
Bob Dylan goes electric at the Newport Folk Festival.

June 28, 1969
The Newport Bridge opens.

1969 – 1970
The revitalization and development of downtown
is underway; the West side of Thames Street
is demolished to make way for America’s Cup Avenue.

June 23, 1989
Oil tanker World Prodigy ran aground at
Brenton Reef spilling 420,000 gallons into
Narragansett Bay.

September 5, 2013
Claiborne Pell Elementary School opens,
marking the end of neighborhood elementary
schools in Newport.
The Franklin Press, Washington Square:
Winner of the 2014 Historic Site in Journalism Award

Since 1942, the Society of Professional Journalists has honored the people and places that have played important roles in the history of American journalism. In 2013, the Newport Historical Society and The Newport Mercury together nominated the Franklin Press, housed in the NHS Brick Market Museum of Newport History on Washington Square for the 2013 Historic Sites in Journalism Award.

The colonial-era printing press, which is often referred to as the Franklin Press, printed one of the longest running newspapers in American history, the Newport Mercury. The Franklin Press was made in Britain in the middle of the 17th century. It is one of the few colonial-era printing presses surviving in the United States. Long a part of Newport’s history, the press is of national significance as well. It played a vital role in the dissemination of news from near and far during a time of revolutionary change. For over a century, the press was a source of information and also of livelihood for the families who operated it, printing newspapers, almanacs, broadsides, laws, and currency.

It was first owned and operated by James Franklin, Jr., brother of Benjamin Franklin. On June 19, 1758, the first issue of The Newport Mercury came off the press. When James died, his widow Ann Smith Franklin continued to publish what is possibly the oldest continuously published newspaper in the United States.

When Ann died, her son-in-law Samuel Hall took over. He, in turn, sold the business to Solomon Southwick, an outspoken opponent of the British crown, in 1768. Local lore has it that Southwick buried the printing press in a garden off Third Street in the Point section of Newport to keep it out of British hands during the occupation, and when he returned to Newport after the war, unearthed the press and continued his printing operation.

On June 19, 2014 the official Awards ceremony took place in the portico of the Museum of Newport History. An exterior plaque was dedicated to distinguish the Franklin Press and Washington Square as a National Historic Site in Journalism.

Another enhancement to the visitor experience this year will be the addition of an in-store kiosk. The kiosk will serve multiple functions:

- **Virtual Tour:** This will allow disabled visitors to engage with Brick Market Museum’s exhibits. This is essential because there is not an accessible way to the second floor, which houses the Museum.

- **In-store Shop/NewportHistory.com portal:** This will allow visitors to make purchases and ship them directly to home.

- **Self-service for donated admissions to the Museum:**

- Portal for access to our digital resources such as History Bytes, Found!, NHS blogs, Glady’s, and The Digital Ark

We are excited about the new initiatives at the Brick Market Museum & Shop and hope that you will visit soon!

127 Thames Street, Newport, RI (401) 841-8770

**Hours:** Open Daily 10 – 5

**Admission:** Free for members. For nonmembers, suggested donation of $4/adult and $2/child over age 5.
Hamnett's Bookstore

Hamnett's Bookstore operated from 1846-1898 at the corner of Thames Street and Cotton Court. It rivaled the collection of the Redwood Library and the Newport Public Library with thousands of books, some dating to the mid 17th-century. It served as a bookstore with a circulating library, as well as a printing and stationery establishment.

Charles E. Hamnett, Jr. (1823-1902) was a civic leader and one of the original incorporators of the Newport Historical Society in 1854. Hamnett's store is now occupied by the J. D. Convenience Store at 202 Thames Street.

Newport, Rhode Island and New York Place Names

1. Astoria Queens: Developed by John Jacob Astor and son William B. Astor, owner of “Beachwood.”
2. Belmont and Belmont Race Track: Founded by August Belmont of “By The Sea” and son Perry Belmont of “Belcourt.”
3. Hutchinson River: Named for Portsmouth settler and Antinomian leader Anne Marbury Hutchinson, who was killed at Pelham Bay Park in 1643.
4. Jerome Avenue, the Bronx: Named for Leonard Jerome, owner of Ruggles Avenue cottage in 1663 and grandfather of Winston Churchill.
5. Pelham Manor: Named for Sir John Pell (b. 1643), second Lord of Pelham Manor and ancestor of Newport Palls.
6. Sands Point: Purchased by James Sands (b. 1652) of Portsmouth and Block Island.

Since research began for the NHS exhibit A Writer's Dozen, attempts had been made to find cabinetmakers' signatures or makers' marks on the 18th-century desks in the collection. On one in particular, a desk that family history suggested was made by Thomas Goddard, son of the famous Newport furniture maker John Goddard, faint traces of graphite were found on the top surface of the desk’s bottom board, but they defied decipherment.

Several NHS staff members enjoyed hearing Eric Greensing's talk at the Redwood Library’s recent seminar on Rhode Island furniture makers regarding the use of infrared photography as a means to bring out faint traces of writing on furniture. Following the event, Adjunct Curator Audley Clarke borrowed such a camera from staff at the Preservation Society and was rewarded with a faint but legible image that revealed the name “Thom.” This is strong evidence to confirm the desk’s maker. Stay tuned for more discoveries.

The Poison Plot

A LECTURE BY ELAINE FORMAN CRANE

Sometimes during the month of November 1738, Mary Arnold attempted to poison her husband Benedict (grandson of Governor Benedict Arnold and grandfather to the infamous Revolutionary War General Benedict Arnold). Fearing for his life, he petitioned the Rhode Island General Assembly for a divorce. Benedict Arnold's plea contained not only an accusation of attempted murder, but of adultery, sexually transmitted disease, theft, fraud, and various other social improprieties. According to Benedict, Mary's ongoing abuse "...scandalizes his Family Relatives & Acquaintance in an Intolerable manner." The Arnolds were the talk of the town.

Elaine Forman Crane, Professor of History at Fordham University, presented highlights of her current research on April 17, 2014 at the Colony House. She emphasized that the unique details of Mary's betrayal are replayed often enough among her contemporaries as to not be unusual. "As a sideboard to the study of 'traditional' marriage and the family in early America," Dr. Crane explains, "the fine points of the Arnold story show that marriages were not necessarily made in heaven—or even were heavenly inspired. And although the seamier side of their union may be an extraordinary example of marital disarray in early America, the Arnolds’ failings provide insights into a range of social fault lines that extend beyond their domestic circle: adultery, illegitimacy, poison, abuse of husbands by wives, female dependency, drugs and druggists, attempted crimes.”

Adding to the story is the age gap between Mary and Benedict: he was nearly two decades older than Mary and by the time Benedict was in his mid-50s, Mary sought the company of other, presumably younger men. Nevertheless, as Benedict's wife Mary was her husband's first line of defense when illness overtook him. As his caretaker, she prepared medicinal remedies, and if Mary knew which cures would restore Benedict to health, she also seemed to have knowledge of poisons might better suit her purpose. The Arnold marriage—and divorce—raises intriguing questions about the complex relationships between men and women in early America.

Dr. Crane's books include Killed Strangely: The Death of Rebecca Cornell (Cornell University Press, 2002), Ebb Tide in New England Women, Seaports, and Social Change 1630-1800 (Northeastern University Press, 1998), and A Dependent People: Newport, Rhode Island in the Revolutionary Era (Fordham University Press, 1985). She is a member of the Newport Historical Society's Leadership Council.

Newport and the California Gold Rush

In 1848 Gold Rush fever was spreading throughout the continent and adventurers were flocking to California to find their fortunes. On 15 February 1849, seventy-five Newporters set sail on the old whaler Audley Clarke under the command of Capt. Ayrault Wanton Dervas. After a quick stop at the Cape Verde Islands for supplies, the ship pulled into San Francisco Bay after a 198 day voyage around Cape Horn. Audley Clarke was immediately deserted and floundered in litigation concerning ownership and customs matters. Most passengers stayed out west or embarked on voyages to Australia’s Gold Rush. Shown here are a sketch made of the Audley Clarke and a mysterious gold nugget from the NHS collections.
Board of Directors

Thomas P. I. Goddard, President
Harrison M. Wright, First Vice President
Jessica Hagen, Second Vice President
Dickson G. Boenning, Treasurer
Derienne Farzan, Secretary
David Brodsky
Richard I. Burnham, President Emeritus
James Farrar
Beastra Ford
George G. Herrick
Victoria Johnson
Pamela Kelley
Elizabeth Leatherman
Matthew P. Leys
Douglas L. Newhouse
Duane Stipesville
Nancy Parker Wilson
Anne F. Hamilton, Honorary Director
Kenneth H. Lyons, President Emeritus
Dennis F. McCoy, President Emeritus

Leadership Council

Hugh D. Auchincloss III
Sylvia Brown
Richard I. Burnham
Elaine F. Crane
Richard C. Crisson
Ronald Lee Fleming
David B. Ford
Anne F. Hamilton
Edward W. Kane
Matthew Keagly
Michael C. Kathrens
Karen Dahlgren Lloyd
Philip C. Marshall
Doug Riggs
Pieter Roos
John Tschirch
Gerald W. R. Ward
Edward L. Widmer

Transitions

Archivist Stacie Panfilo came to the NHS in 2011 to assist in the important project of acquiring real intellectual control of our collections and the data associated with them. Hired originally to staff the “Lost and Found” project, she quickly became an essential member of the team, and our go-to person for all digital initiatives. Stacie is leaving us to take a dynamic position working with digital resources at the Providence Public Library. She will stay on as a consultant to keep her projects here moving forward, and will be joining the NHS Collections Committee.

Editor James Yarnall and designer Jane Carey have been producing the Journal Newport History for over a decade, and have been essential in providing our members with a regular dose of scholarship about Newport History. Both are retiring, which leaves us with some big shoes to fill!
It is the mission of the Newport Historical Society to collect and preserve 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.

Join Us!
Visit www.NewportHistory.org to become a member and enjoy the benefits...

- Free admission (with card) to Newport Historical Society sites including the Museum.
- Reduced rates for tours, programs, lectures and events.
- Subscription to Historical Society publications.
- 20% discount on purchases at Museum Store.
- 10% discount on image and document reproduction.
- Members Only shopping days.
- Recognition in publications and Annual Report.

Status of the Charter Museum and Re-encasement of the 1663 Charter

The Charter Museum at the Rhode Island State House, which opened in June 2013, will be getting some exhibit upgrades in coming months. The Rhode Island 1663 Colonial Charter will soon be travelling to the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover, Massachusetts, to undergo conservation treatment. This treatment is part of a larger project to construct three state-of-the-art sealed encasements that will provide optimal climate and lighting conditions for this founding document. These new encasements will ensure that this document remains safe and well-preserved for generations to come. Be sure to visit the Charter Museum, and stay tuned for updates on the project in coming months.