



NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newport History Starts Here.

SUMMER 2015 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 1

History's New Home

NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

✿ INSIDE ✿

Campaign Update

NHS Timeline

History Space

2015 Newport Antiques Show



2015 SUMMER EVENTS

EXHIBITS

French in Revolutionary Newport

Highlights from the collection of the Newport Historical Society exploring the French involvement in the American Revolutionary War.

Through Fall 2015; Brick Market: Museum and Shop

2015 Newport Antiques Show Loan Exhibit

Presented by Museum of the American Revolution

July 24 – 26, 2015; St. George's School, Middletown

PROGRAMS

Newport Antiques Show Gala

Thursday, July 23, 7:00pm;

St. George's School, Middletown

Newport Antiques Show

Friday, July 24 – Sunday, July 26, 10am – 4pm

St. George's School, Middletown

For more information visit www.NewportAntiquesShow.com

Stamp Act Protest Reenactment

A day of living history marking the 250th anniversary of Newport's Stamp Act Protest.

Saturday, August 29, 11:00AM;

Washington Square

Newport Historical Society

HOURS

Resource Center

82 Touro Street, Newport RI 02840

401-846-0813 | Closed through late summer 2015

Brick Market: Museum and Shop

127 Thames Street, Newport, RI 02840

401-841-8770 | Daily 10 to 5

Properties

For Guided Site Tours see

www.NewportHistory.org

www.NewportHistoryTours.org

Director's Note: Newport, Rhode Island, and Outstanding Universal Value



You know people from Rhode Island are accused of many things, including an inappropriate boosting of our local history. But if we do have a chip on our shoulder, it's because the amazing history of our state is still relatively unknown. Few know that the notion of a separation between church and state, one of the baseline American values, was first tested in a lively experiment right here in Rhode Island. Few know that the first shots in the American Revolution were not fired

at Lexington and Concord but rather right here on Narragansett Bay. Few know that Newport was one of the wealthiest and most successful Colonial cities, and that Providence was one of the wealthiest American cities of the 19th century. These are highlights of a very long list of important firsts and milestones for our state.

There are many reasons why our history remains somewhat obscure, but one is that we are so locally proud that we break our story up into many small pieces, and we are one of the few states that does not have a state-wide history museum. So it is possible to know that the birthplace of the industrial revolution was in Pawtucket at Slater's Mill, but not know that George Washington wrote a letter to the Jewish congregation at Newport affirming religious freedom in the new nation. Possible to know that the first public roller-skating rink in America was in Newport, and not know that the first car race in American may have been in Cranston.

Recently, the Newport World Heritage Commission, which I chair, took a close look at Rhode Island's earliest history, with an eye towards articulating an Outstanding Universal Value for Newport, as required by the World Heritage program. We discovered that we could not demonstrate overwhelming and international value without including the whole state. While the parts are important, the whole is magnificent – full of innovation, tolerance of difference, risk-taking and achievement.

Why is our history and cultural heritage important, except for bragging rights? Rhode Island's history is an incredible asset. Not just for tourism, though it certainly is a draw for visitors. Our history is full of examples of entrepreneurship, innovation and creative survival. It has the potential to be an inspiration to those who live here and the source of an incredible pride in place. It also has lessons for today in how problems can be solved, change managed, and even in how to have a good time. Our history is an enormous data bank, bigger and better than most, that can be put to uses that I probably cannot even predict. I believe that our hardworking tourism bureaus, our effective Historical Societies, and our innovative schools must work together to collect, present and promote the history of our state. We are small enough, and our history is important enough, that we can be a model for how best to do so, and there is no doubt that there will economic advantages – in the short and long term – if we do.

– Ruth S. Taylor, *Executive Director*

FOUND |

CLOTH BANNER



As the NHS has been engaged in inventorying and cataloging our artifact collections for some years, we thought that perhaps we had seen everything. But, while packing collections for safe-keeping during the construction, NHS staff members uncovered several unexpected finds. Pictured above is a detail from a cloth banner that sat at the back of a shelf, untouched, for 30 years or more. Once unrolled, it revealed the painted image of a tiger. Social media and our friends at the Naval War College helped to suggest that the banner is likely Chinese, dating to the Boxer Rebellion (c.1900, China).

Message from the President

In 2015, the Newport Historical Society is coming to the end of its current strategic plan's period of activity. A funny thing, or in fact several wonderful things, happened as we worked on implementing the plan.

First, we became much more aware of our importance and role, and our responsibility in history, to make our collections' resources at Newport Historical Society accessible to others to study. Our collections are too important to be stored out of sight or reach. This became clear as we worked to broaden our audiences and make our collections more accessible; we found intense interest among scholars and the public.

Second, we discovered that our collections are even more amazing than we knew. In fact, we made so many discoveries that we named our efforts "Lost & Found." Things were both newly discovered in the collections, and rediscovered as we associated records and objects. These included:

- ❖ A plan of Washington's Continental Army encampment at Valley Forge
- ❖ 17th century sheet music
- ❖ An electric-generating machine very similar to the one commissioned by Ben Franklin
- ❖ An Ojibway Dictionary from 1830
- ❖ A retreat order document for the Battle of Rhode Island
- ❖ A Matthew Brady photograph of Ulysses S. Grant
- ❖ Ida Lewis' compass
- ❖ A grocery receipt signed by Newport's John Clarke and Benedict Arnold
- ❖ William Ellery's personal library

All of these wonderful objects have significance to Newport's history, to American history and to the world at large.

Finally, the world discovered us! We have seen a significant increase in requests for loans of our valuable objects, and in 2015 and 2016 Newport collections will be on display in Washington, Philadelphia and New Haven at major museums. We have established collaborative efforts with significant institutions including universities and other colleagues. We have received offers for donation of many important objects, a clear indication that many see us as the most appropriate organization to preserve and collect Newport history. Most recently, we have accepted a presentation sword given by the Marquis de Lafayette to Newport's Daniel Lyman in 1783.

We are both humbled and empowered by the community's response to our activities, and to the historical wealth that exists in our collections. We are determined to build from where we are and to be the best possible historical resource given the histories that we have been entrusted with to preserve.

— Thomas P.I. Goddard, *President*



Timeline of NHS Headquarters History

In 1915 the Newport Historical Society embarked on a major construction project when it added to its headquarters on Touro Street. Exactly one century later NHS is at it again with its first comprehensive renovation to both the exterior and interior of the site. As we look forward to the completion of the project in summer 2015, we also celebrate the history of 82 Touro Street.



1884 – 1887

The Seventh Day Baptist Meeting House was purchased for \$800 and was restored on its original site on lower Barney Street. In 1887 a lot next to Touro Synagogue was purchased for \$700 and over the course of three days the Meeting House was moved up the hill to serve as a headquarters for NHS. Above is a postcard from the collections of the Newport Historical Society depicting the Seventh Day Baptist Meeting House in use as both headquarters and exhibit space.



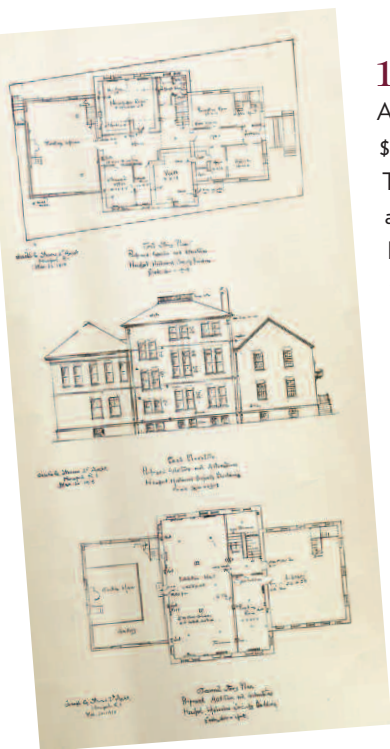
1889

NHS headquarters was doubled in size when the now defunct Newport Natural History Society Museum was attached to the meeting house.

1902

A brick building was constructed on the 82 Touro Street lot adjacent to the Meeting House to allow for a fireproof vault and library. Shown is a detail from a 1907 atlas illustrating the layout of NHS headquarters after the completion of the library addition.





1914

Arthur Curtiss James donated \$10,000 toward a new addition. Two years and \$20,000 later the addition housing the Natural History Museum was dismantled, the Meeting House was moved to the rear of the Touro Street lot, and a new building was added to connect it to the library. The Meeting House was also wrapped in brick at that time. Shown is a plan illustrating the 1915 addition.



Challenging the Future

As of this date, *Challenging the Future* has raised a bit over \$3 million, and is moving into Phase II of the campaign.

This year, we will work to raise \$2.5 million to double our endowment. These additional invested funds will help us to raise our annual budget to \$1 million, up from about \$400,000 ten years ago. At this level, we will be able to support a more complete roster of Historical Society staff, and pay our very hard-working employees appropriate, competitive and professional salaries. A facilities maintenance fund is also included in the plans.

Phase I funds are being put to work as NewPort Architecture and Farrar & Associates work to make the changes to our Resource Center needed to bring it into the 21st century. If you have driven past 82 Touro Street, you have seen the work, which continued throughout this tough winter. Things are picking up as the weather warms, and we are on track for a new facility in late July.

If you are interested in helping complete this effort, please call the NHS office!



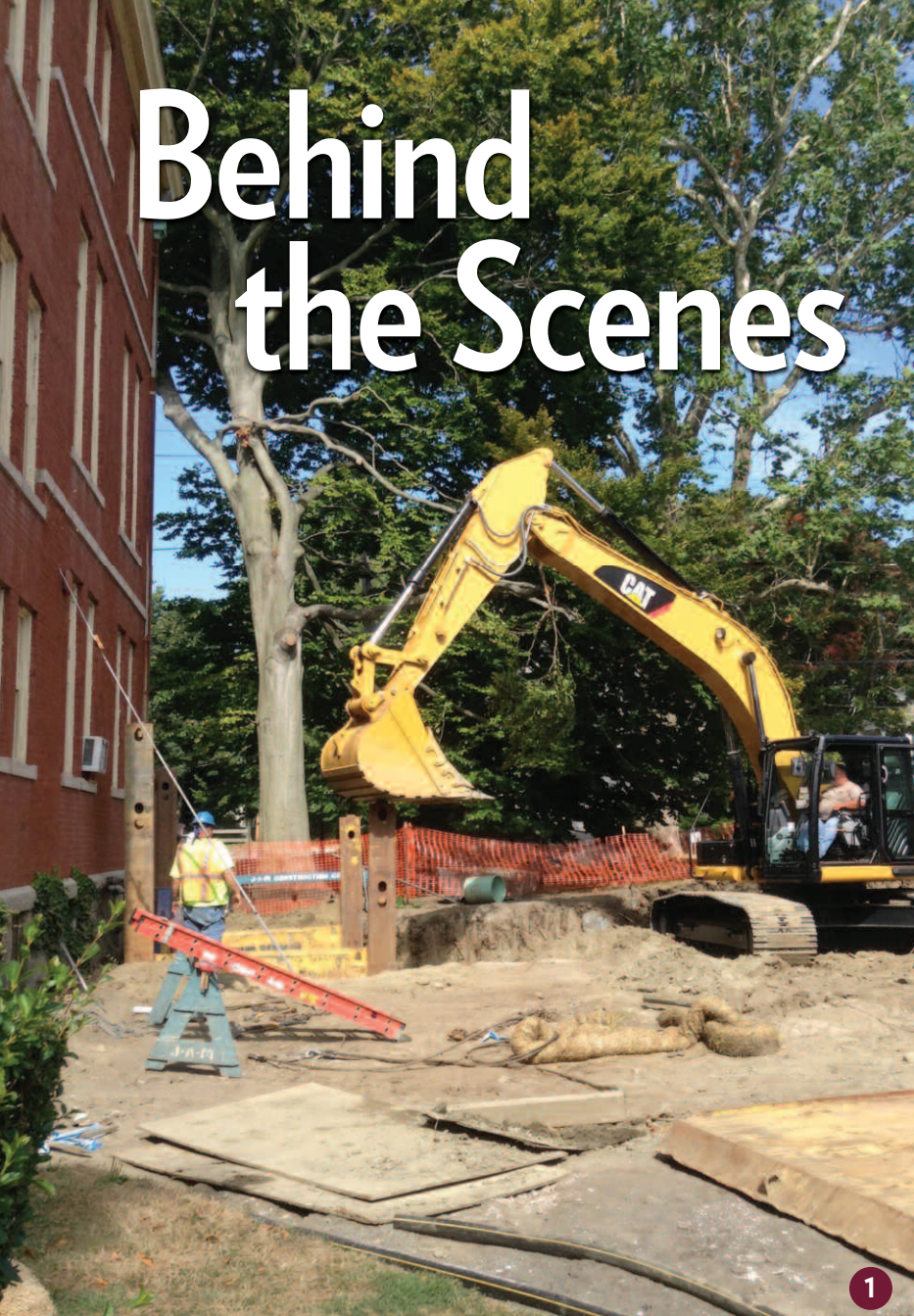
2008

The Seventh Day Baptist Meeting House interior was restored. This photo was taken during the celebration marking the end of the SDBMH restoration. Pictured are President, Richard Burnham, and members of the Newport Artillery Company.

2015

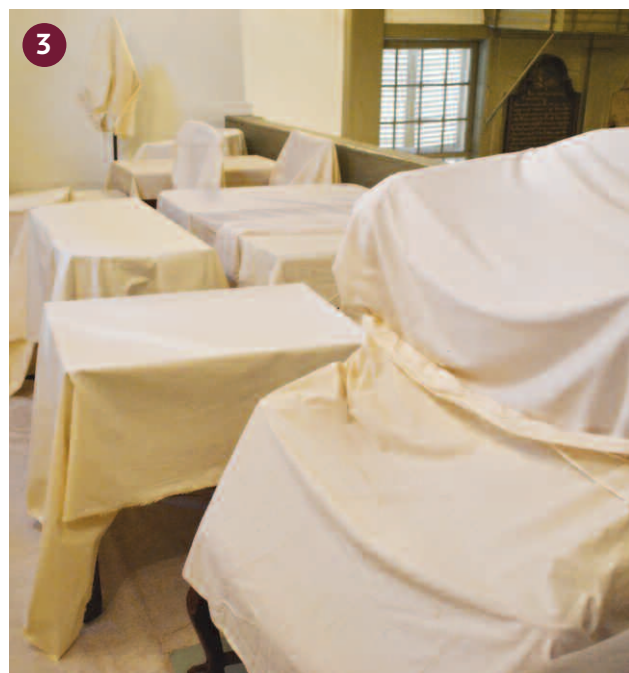
Please join us August 7 as we celebrate our newly renovated headquarters and research center with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Behind the Scenes



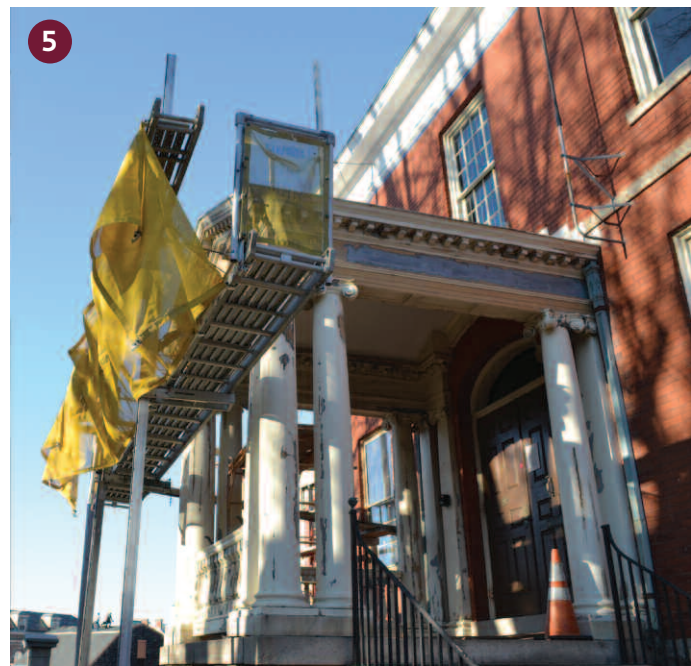
Our Headquarters and Resource Center closed to the public after our groundbreaking in August of 2014. Despite being closed, NHS staff members have been on site and working to ensure the safety of the collection. Here are just a few Behind the Scenes highlights of work at 82 Touro Street.

1. Ground was broken in August 2014 to allow for a new entrance and elevator shaft. In this photo from September, we see an excavator making way. Our irises all found new homes before their bed was destroyed!
2. Collections storage areas were first to be systematically cleared ahead of interior work. Here we see the former conference room serving as the temporary home of a portion of the ceramics collection.
3. Pictured are items from the furniture collection carefully removed from harm's way and covered to protect from dust and light.





4. Work progressed quickly on the exterior of the building and our new entrance took shape by late fall.
5. The portico on Touro Street, though no longer functioning as the public entrance, is remaining. Pictured is the scaffolding going up ahead of the restoration of the columns.
6. Cold weather failed to bring progress to a halt as work moved inside through the late fall and winter.
7. As collections and office spaces were cleared out, demolition began to take place – and discoveries were made! Here we see Librarian Bert Lippincott and Registrar Bridget Sullivan discussing one such find with two contractors.



8. Despite the harsh winter and demands of a comprehensive renovation, NHS staff found moments to enjoy the process. Here Executive Director, Ruth Taylor, and Executive Assistant, Mathew DeLaire, model their new hard hats and particle masks.



For more information on the reopening of our Resource Center, and to keep tabs on us as we renovate, please visit us on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/NewportHistory](https://www.facebook.com/NewportHistory).

Summer Tours and Programs

British in Newport – May 16 at 11am

In 1776 as the Revolutionary War officially began, 7,000 British and Hessian soldiers invaded Newport creating an occupation that lasted for nearly three years. This tour explores the sites and stories of the soldiers and citizens affected during this struggle, and includes a review of locations used by the army as they held onto a base for the Royal Navy. 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.

Newport and the Navy – June 20 at 11am

Naval War College historian John Hattendorf will lead a walking tour in central Newport, giving an overview of Newport's naval history and pointing out some sites associated with naval activities that can be seen on foot in this area.

What's in a Garden:

History of the Whitehorns & Neighbors – July 18 at 11am

Enjoy the peace and tranquility of the Samuel Whitehorne House garden, a formal garden in the Federal style, tucked away behind the historic Whitehorne House. Learn about the plants and people who shaped this space as you hear stories of this vibrant working waterfront neighborhood. Merchants, mill owners, munitions workers and others called this neighborhood their home.

The Stamp Act Riot and the Road to Revolution – August 15 at 11am

August 1765. Newport was one of the leading cities of British North America, experiencing a Golden Age of wealth and cultural refinement. And yet a group of Newporters decided to organize a protest that turned Newport's leading citizens against each other, setting the city and Rhode Island on a path to rebellion against Great Britain. Take this tour to learn more about this important part of Newport's story and get a glimpse of America on the eve of Revolution.

The Stamp Act Riot Reenactment – August 29, 2015 at 11am

Join the Newport Historical Society and dozens of costumed reenactors as we turn back time 250 years to August 1765. Marking the anniversary of one of the key events leading the American Revolution, NHS is bringing this fateful day back to life – riot and all! Join us for a reception following at the Colony House. Visit NewportHistory.org for more information.

**For details visit NewportHistory.org
or call 401-841-8770 to register.**

HISTORY SPACE

The Newport Historical Society and the Rhode Island Historical Society have teamed up to offer a series of programs on early American culture geared towards reenactors, living history enthusiasts, writers, teachers, tour guides, docents and all interested in early American history. Entitled History Space, the workshops aim to help others interpret early American material culture and Rhode Island's unique place in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Winter workshops highlighted men's sewing. The frock coat workshop, *Easy Grace and Comfort*, and the breeches workshop, *To Turn a Good Leg*, presented by 18th century tailor Henry Cooke of Historical Costume Services. Two free lectures also helped participants learn about early American life. *Fitting Into the Past*, offered in late January, discussed developing a living history persona and *Living in a (Colonial) Material World*, presented in March, offered an introduction to using surviving objects from the 18th and early 19th centuries as tools to learn about the past.

Additional programs include a men's waistcoat workshop, an apron and petticoat workshops for ladies, and an historical sewing session. One goal of History Space is to help individuals prepare for a living history event, specifically the August Stamp Act Protest reenactment and the Rhode Island Historical Society's What Cheer Day in October. To learn more about upcoming programs visit NewportHistory.org.





Brick Market: Museum and Shop

The Museum & Shop at Brick Market had a record winter holiday season. Although the record snowfall kept most visitors home, the shop experienced growth in online sales. With indoor activities in mind, visitor services staff members Emily Stenning and Jenna Teachout worked closely with the Education Department to develop a new guided tour of the museum and scavenger hunts to offer during Winterfest. The visitors that were able to make it in were very appreciative.

We are looking forward to a busy season this year! April brought some much needed sun and blue sky and Newport was revitalized! In early May Newport welcomed the Volvo Ocean Race. In preparation for this special event, several products from the shop were selected for the VIP gift bag, including Suegray Wax Seal Charms and copies of *Newport a Concise History*; and Newport History Tours expanded its walking tour program to include daily tours all month.

Recent changes to the shop include a new layout, featuring a more accessible cash wrap and several new display islands to accommodate a growing selection of products. A custom line of table top items featuring the 1888 Nicholson rendering of Newport Harbor and maps of Newport and Narragansett Bay from the NHS collections was created. NHS also partnered with Benrus, an historically significant line of watches and accessories with ties to the US military, now based here in RI.

We invite you to stop in and see some of the changes for yourself or visit us online at ShopNewportHistory.com and follow us on any of our social media outlets.

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.

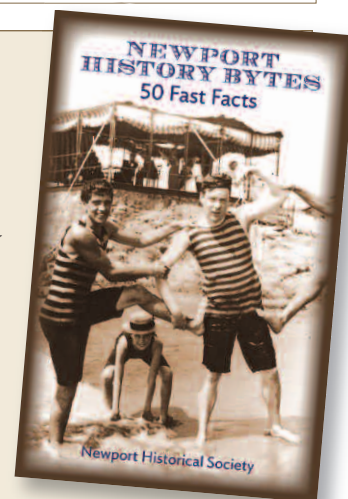
History Bytes Book!

The Society's popular History Bytes blog was established in 2011 and is the basis for the recently published book *Newport History Bytes: 50 Fast Facts* (November 2014.)

It features people, events and episodes in Newport's history with an emphasis on connections to popular culture, current events and American history at large. Illustrated with glossy photographs and images of objects and documents from the NHS collections, it was praised as "Newport's history in tasty bytes" by *The Newport Daily News*.

The book is available at the Brick Market: Museum & Shop for \$14.85 and online at ShopNewportHistory.com

For all the latest bytes, visit NewportHistory.org.





IN MEMORIAM



HELEN BUCHANAN

Over a dozen years ago, Helen Buchanan, along with her daughter and son-in-law, Dick and Monty Burnham, decided to address two gaps in the Historical Society's capacity by creating the Buchanan-Burnham Internship program at the NHS. This program brings the scholarly support of 3-5 young graduate students to the NHS annually, and also provides a mechanism for us to keep four historic properties open to the public each season. In return, the NHS provides training to these lively young people in the practice of public history. This program became a foundation of the NHS's revitalization, and established a working principle of doing a great deal without becoming unsustainably large.

We did not see Helen often, but the interns and fellows corresponded with her each year, and she clearly enjoyed the contact. We enjoyed her sense of humor and frank speech and were always delighted when she was able to attend intern presentations. Helen died in November at age 92, but the program that bears her name has become an essential component of the new Newport Historical Society.



PROFILES

Nancy Cardoza *Board of Directors*



Nancy and her husband, Paul Cardoza, joined the Newport community in 1979 when Paul took on the role of the Salve Regina University Athletic Director. Since their arrival, both Paul and Nancy have been fixtures in the local community. From 1983 through 1988, Nancy worked as Controller of Aquidneck Management Associates, a Defense Contracting company in Middletown, RI. She then joined the International Tennis Hall of Fame as Controller in 1989 and began a part-time retirement in 2014. Nancy credits her 26 years with the Hall of Fame with providing an exciting and rewarding opportunity to meet and work with players and administrators from around the world.

Nancy has served on the Newport Hospital Community Board for 15 years as well as the City of Newport Tax Appeal Board for five. Along with her husband, Nancy also acts as a Minister of Hospitality at St. Mary's Church and serves on their Finance and Investment Committees. Though having served on our Finance Committee since 2008, Nancy joined the Board of Directors in November 2014. "I look forward to being a board member during the next phase of the Historical Society's growth," Nancy said remarking on her term ahead.

Nancy is a 1969 graduate of St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing; she also holds a B.S. in Accounting from Salve Regina University, Class of 1985. Nancy and Paul have two children, Kevin Cardoza, a Detective with the Newport Police Department, and Kristine Smith, a teacher in Jamestown, RI. Four grandsons help keep Nancy busy outside of her volunteer work.



Bridget Sullivan *Registrar*

In 2013, Bridget joined the NHS ranks as an intern with the Collections Department. She was soon hired as a Collections Assistant in January 2014 and took on the role of Registrar in October 2014. Her major responsibilities include managing documentation of the collection, working with incoming and outgoing loans, and coordinating research appointments. Currently, her time has been spent overseeing the temporary storage of the collection as comprehensive renovations of our Library and Resource Center proceed.

Bridget has a B.A. in History and Economics from Providence College and an M.A. in History with a concentration in Public History from American University in Washington, DC. She is a lifelong Rhode Island resident and currently resides in Cranston, RI with two roommates and several plants.

Board of Directors

Thomas P. I. Goddard, *President*

Harrison M. Wright, *First Vice President*

Elizabeth Leatherman, *Second Vice President*

Dickson G. Boenning, *Treasurer*

Victoria Johnson, *Secretary*

David Brodsky

Richard I. Burnham

Nancy C. Cardoza

Dr. Elaine F. Crane

James Farrar

George G. Herrick

Matthew H. Leys

Douglas Newhouse

Dwight Sippelle

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 C. Crisson

Ronald Lee Fleming

David B. Ford

Anne F. Hamilton

Edward W. Kane

Michael C. Kathrens

Matthew Keagle

Karen Lloyd

Robert Manice

Philip C. Marshall

Liz Mauran

Doug Riggs

Pieter N. Roos

John Tschirch

Gerald W. R. Ward

Edward L. Widmer

Staff

Ruth S. Taylor, *Executive Director*

Ingrid Peters, *Associate Director and Director of Education*

Deborah Carmone, *Bookkeeper*

Mathew DeLaire, *Executive Assistant and Manager of Membership*

Chelsea Gunn, *Archivist and Manager of Digital Initiatives*

Bertram Lippincott III, C.G., *Librarian and Genealogist*

Charles C. Morgan, *Facilities Manager*

Jennifer Robinson, *Associate Curator of Photography and Costume*

Jasmine Souza, *Collections Assistant*

Bridget Sullivan, *Registrar*

Elizabeth Sulock, *Manager of Public Outreach and Living History*

Adams Taylor, *Adjunct Curator of Exhibits and Special Projects*

Kathleen Vanderveer, *Director of Retail Operations*

Public Engagement

Kate Constantino

Emily Stenning

Jenna Teachout

NHS Tour Guides

Mary Jo Dieckhaus

Patricia Drislane

Chuck Flippo

Lewis Keen

Colleen Miller

Jean Quinn

Elise Petrarca

Transitions

Loraine Byrne has left the Newport Historical Society. Loraine was part of the team for the long period of NHS' revival, and was responsible for much behind the scenes as we reinvented ourselves. Publically, perhaps her greatest accomplishment was the re-creation of the NHS newsletter, which became a beautiful and lively public communication under her direction.

Jessica Hagen and Doriennne Farzan have rotated off the Board of Directors. Both Jessica and Doriennne remain involved with us through their work on NHS committees and Jessica will continue to serve as the Newport Antiques Show Dealer Liaison. We thank them for their past and continued support.



Newport Historical Society
82 Touro Street
Newport, Rhode Island 02840
www.NewportHistory.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Newport, RI
Permit 82



THE NEWPORT ANTIQUES SHOW



*William Waller's Powder Horn, 1775.
From the Museum of the American Revolution.*

JULY 24-26, 2015
GALA PREVIEW PARTY THURSDAY, JULY 23

2015
Presenting
Sponsor



Loan Exhibit Presented by



**St. George's School, Purgatory Road,
Middletown, Rhode Island**

To benefit the Newport Historical Society and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County

NewportAntiquesShow.com | 401-846-2669



2015 Preview
Party Sponsors

FRANKLIN & COMPANY
DESIGN ASSOCIATES

**SHOW HOURS: Fri 10 - 6
Sat 10 - 6
Sun 10 - 4**

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.