

# NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## *History Starts Here*

FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 9



INSIDE

Tracking Visitor Motivation ❖ History Starts Here Award ❖ 2018 Annual Report



# Director's Note –

Summer has ended and Newport is filled with bus and cruise ship day-trippers. It is an appropriate time to reflect on the visitors that the NHS serves, and to ask ourselves what, in fact, they want from us.

Our audience is not homogenous. We serve locals with lectures, programs and special events, and a fully international cohort of students and scholars with access to our collections for research. A percentage of the 3 million visitors to Newport take advantage of our museum, walking tours, and other programming. To further complicate the issue, each of these segmented audiences are also diverse: summer residents on Ocean Drive, Middletown school groups, a bus tour from upstate New York, a family from Mexico City. These groups have very different needs and expectations, and providing each of them with educational, entertaining, and useful experiences is a central challenge for NHS.

This year, as our new Board President, Paul McGreevy, initiated an effort to plan for improvements at the Museum of Newport History, taking a close look at our audiences became part of the plan. We are living in interesting times, and visitors have expectations of their history museums. Also, over the past year we have hosted over 200,000 visits through our various websites –more than 6x the number we see in person – and we know very little about them. So, we participated in a national survey of history museum goers, and also surveyed our own audiences. This information will help us continue to shape the Newport Historical Society as a 21st century public history organization. If the act of public history is, in part, bringing historical information and understanding to people where they “are,” this requires an understanding of their needs.

What have we learned? Our audiences are interested in Newport, and a substantial number of the visitors to our website are planning or thinking about a visit. But, of the tens of thousands who visit the website, only a small percentage actually make it to our museum. This is very similar to data from a recent study that revealed that while a high number of visitors to Newport cited the mansions as a reason to visit, a much smaller number had actually visited a mansion. What this suggests is that Newport, as a whole, attracts visitors because of its history, and the fact that this history is evocatively evident on Newport's streets. This is true even for people who do not see themselves as natural visitors to history museums and sites. We have also learned that our most engaged audiences come to us interested in and opinionated about history. This is not uncomplicated good news. Many think they want the unvarnished truth but are often uncomfortable when looking at it. Most carry the things they learned in school, family stories, and a good number of stereotypes and myths with them. While they still trust history museums, that trust seems

a little more fragile than it did a decade ago, when history museums were the most trusted institutions in America.

We are also learning that the relationship between a cultural institution and its audience is a two-way street. An institution that serves a primarily local audience will be a different place than one that serves a national, or international one. An institution that focuses on school programming will develop different strengths and perspectives than one which focuses on adults. While we have always known that we are shaped by our mission, our collections, and our history, we must now reflect also on how we are shaped by our audiences and their expectations.

All of this is fascinating, hard, and necessary. History teaches us is that the status quo is rarely sustainable. The landscape transforms, and we must respond. Even as our mission persists, the work to advance it is changing. Today, we must work to continue to maintain the public's trust in historical facts, at the same time that we help them to understand that the narratives created from those facts shift, legitimately, over time and place. We must develop programming that is accessible to people who may not share our national heritage, or are new to it, and encourage them to think about and learn from our history. Collaborating within our community and our State to ensure that residents and visitors alike have access to all of the resources that our rich cultural landscape provides will be important. And, we should, perhaps, be helping people grapple with the history we are making today – how to understand the forces that shape our politics and our national identity.

This is a lot of work for a small place. But, the importance of our mission is enhanced by the passion of the people who work at NHS – both on the Board and on the staff. Even with all that, nothing is possible without the support of our friends and members. The philanthropic landscape, too, is changing, and there is little that is automatic and predictable about the support that organizations like NHS receive. While donations are down across the state this year, one ray of optimism for us is that our membership is growing. Thank you for subscribing to Newport's history through the NHS, and please continue to do so!

– Ruth S. Taylor, *Executive Director*



## Nathaniel Philbrick visits NHS

Nathaniel Philbrick traveled with his wife to Newport by boat as part of a new book project about the travels of George Washington in the new Republic. While here, he viewed our Washington-related collections, including several letters written during the American Revolution, a sample of his and Martha's hair woven into a locket, and our magnificent plan of General Washington's encampment at Valley Forge.



### Newport Historical Society

#### Resource Center

82 Touro Street, Newport, RI 02840 | 401-846-0813  
Monday – Friday 10 to 4

#### Museum of Newport History & Shop

127 Thames Street, Newport, RI 02840 | 401-841-8770  
Daily 10 to 5

#### Properties:

Colony House, Washington Square, Newport

Wanton-Lyman-Hazard-House, 17 Broadway, Newport

Great Friends Meeting House, 22 Farewell Street, Newport

Seventh Day Baptist Meeting House, 82 Touro Street, Newport

Green End Fort, Vernon Avenue, Middletown

For more information go to:

[NewportHistory.org](http://NewportHistory.org)

[ShopNewportHistory.com](http://ShopNewportHistory.com)

[NewportHistoryTours.org](http://NewportHistoryTours.org)

## History Starts Here AWARD



LEFT TO RIGHT: Paul McGreevy, Jim Ludes, Ruth Taylor, G. Wayne Miller

The Newport Historical Society has initiated a new award program, which builds upon its interest in how historical perspectives help us think about the present and improve the future. The *History Starts Here Award* will be offered annually to an individual or organization who is making history now, or making opportunities for thinking about how history is important to today.

**The 2019 *History Starts Here Award* was awarded to “Story in the Public Square,” a program of Salve Regina University’s Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy.**

“Story in the Public Square” is hosted by Jim Ludes, Executive Director of the Pell Center, and G. Wayne Miller, senior staff writer at *The Providence Journal* and available on more than 200 public television stations across the country, as well as SiriusXM satellite radio’s popular P.O.T.U.S. channel. “Story in the Public Square” features interviews with today’s best print, screen, music, and other storytellers about their creative processes and how their stories impact public understanding and policy.

Founded in February 2012, “Story in the Public Square” is an initiative to celebrate, study and tell stories that matter. A partnership of the Pell Center and *The Providence Journal*, a GateHouse Media property, the program sponsors public seminar, annually names a national story of the year, and produces the eponymous Telly-winning, nationally broadcast weekly program on public television and SiriusXM satellite radio, now in its third year.

# Surveying Audiences and Planning for the Future

The NHS practices a rolling strategic planning process rather than producing a new plan every five years or so. The world is changing fast, and we are, too. So, it makes more sense to be assessing our progress and our goals on a continuous basis.

This year and next we are focusing on understanding our audiences and exploring potential ways of expanding the audience for Newport's important history. One topic under consideration is a larger Museum of Newport History. If Newport hosts at least 2 million visitors a year, and if we know that about 5% of Americans are regular museum-goers, would it be possible for us to expand our visitation to something close to 100,000, if we had the appropriate facilities?

A planning committee, comprised of staff and Board members and outside experts, will look at this data as well as models for how other, similar institutions tell their stories to the public over the course of this winter. The expectation we had as we began, that the Museum was too small, and outdated, may in part be true. But it is also the case that in its current configuration it serves an audience need and pleases most people who visit. This provides us with a great foundation on which to build.

## Museum – In Person Visitor Survey:

**First visit:** 95%

### Satisfaction rating:

Very good/Excellent: 75%      Fair/Good: 25%

**Would you return?** 72%

### How did you learn about us?

Walked or drove by: 51%      Brochure: 14%  
Word of Mouth: 21%      Website: 12%

## Where do you live?

Rhode Island: 16%      US all other: 33%  
New England: 14%      International: 7%  
Mid-Atlantic: 30%

## How old are you?

Under 50: 54%      Over 50: 46%

## What do you like about the Museum?

- Museum shop is well stocked
- Unique exhibits
- A good historical resource; nice jumping-off place to bring visitors
- Excellent coverage of Revolutionary history/other topics/history generally
- Interested in Newport history
- Public restrooms & gift shop
- Would like to share this experience with friends & family
- Acknowledgement of Native American History

## What is less appealing?

- Exhibits do not address slavery/a variety of other topics/enough
- Exhibit space is too small
- Museum needs new exhibits/ more rotating exhibits
- Too much reading/no docent/more access to videos

## Website – Visitor Survey:

### Why are you visiting?

Plan a visit: 35%      Shop/Donate: 6%  
Research: 44%      Just Browsing: 15%

# Strategic Plan Update

**GOAL ONE:** NHS will update our branding, including logo and tagline, to encompass five centuries of Newport's history and the full range of our assets, and to be visible within all of our activities. We will develop a program of integrated marketing, including cutting-edge social media capability. In doing so, we will seek to have a voice beyond the local, while also reaching Newport's visitors and residents, and broaden the universe of our support.

Implementing the infrastructure of this goal will be completed this fall, when our new signage, which is under preparation, is installed. But a continued focus on our brand, and the expression of it, will continue.

**GOAL TWO:** NHS will assume a more integrated approach to all activities, so that programs, collecting and collections stewardship, research, marketing, fundraising and collaborative work are related to each other and mutually reinforcing.

This is a constant and regular focus, and is, in part, the explanation of how we get so much done with a small staff.

**GOAL THREE:** The NHS must determine what a sustainable size is for an institution of its scope, and move towards creating earned and raised income streams that allow it to grow to the right size, rather than limiting the expression of its mission based on existing budget and capacity.

Work on this goal is ongoing.



# Speakeasy Soirée

SEPTEMBER 14, 2019 AT THE COLONY HOUSE

A 1920's speakeasy with period food and entertainment was our Fourth Annual Culinary Adventure.

Prohibition helped create the American cocktail party. When alcohol became illegal, nationally, in 1920, Americans congregated in drinking establishments known as speakeasies. Here they drank bootlegged and homebrewed alcohol, and were served a constant array of easy-to-eat foods to keep them from getting too inebriated. Many of the canapes we serve today became popular in the 1920s.

In restaurants, even the finest dining establishments were hampered by the loss of wine and alcohol, which may have made people just less interested in the whole business of fancy dining. Dinners, even for presidents, often consisted of roasted meats and vegetables, and the famous Waldorf and Caesar salads.



ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT:  
Event Co-Chair Elizabeth Leatherman with husband, William Leatherman.  
Event Co-Chair Susan Jacquet.  
Susan and Dwight Sipprelle.

LEFT: (Left to right) Emlen Drayton,  
Nancy Parker Wilson, Liz Drayton.

RIGHT: Living Historians dancing the Charleston.  
PHOTOS: ANDREA HANSEN







# THE NEWPORT SHOW

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



The Newport Show has been a mainstay of the NHS' program for a dozen years. It is a glittering Newport gala, a moveable museum, and a bit like the circus coming to town all at once. In addition, the Show is a partnership between the NHS and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County. This alliance reminds those of us who are routinely looking backward in time that young people, and our future, are vitally important to this community.



**We are extremely grateful to the team  
who make the Show happen, all of  
whom have been with it since 2007:  
Show Chair Anne Hamilton,  
and Managers Diana Bittel and  
Ralph and Karen DiSaia.**

PHOTOS TOP TO BOTTOM:

The Newport Show Chair, Anne Hamilton, left, greeting volunteers from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County.

Meg Braff in Meg Braff Designs Booth.

Patrick Dolat, Newport Lamp & Shade, Gala Preview Party Sponsor.

RIGHT:

Shelley Schorsch

Dory and Dan Benson

PHOTOS: ANDREA HANSEN







# THE NEWPORT SHOW 2019

## CHAIR

Mrs. S. Matthews V. Hamilton, Jr.

## HONORARY CO-CHAIRS

Mrs. John R. Donnell

Mrs. John A. van Beuren

## PREVIEW PARTY CO-CHAIRS

Norey Dotterer Cullen

Mrs. John M. Damgard

Mrs. James B. Gubelman

Mrs. Peter D. Kiernan III

Mrs. John S. Palmer

## PRESENTING SPONSOR

Citizens Commercial Banking

## GALA PREVIEW PARTY SPONSOR

Newport Lamp & Shade Company

## CORPORATE SPONSORS

*Antiques & Fine Art Magazine*

BankNewport/OceanPoint Insurance

Corrigan Financial, Inc.

Freeman's Auctioneers & Appraisers

Kempenaar Real Estates, Inc.

## MEDIA SPONSORS

*American Fine Art Magazine*

*New England Home Magazine*

*The Magazine Antiques*

*The Newport Daily News*

Rhode Island Public Radio

## SHOW MANAGER

Diana Bittel

DiSaia Management

## FOUNDERS

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel M. Benson

Mr. & Mrs. Richard I. Burnham

Dayton T. Carr

Mr. Patrick Dolat

Mrs. John R. Donnell

Mr. & Mrs. William P. Egan

Mr. & Mrs. Robert B. Evans

Mr. & Mrs. David B. Ford

Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Gewirz

Mrs. Robert M. Grace

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Grauer

Kate Gubelmann,

The Pitt Foundation

Mr. & Mrs.

Crawford C. H. Hamilton

Mr. & Mrs.

S. Matthews V. Hamilton, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs.

Samuel M. V. Hamilton III

Mr. & Mrs. William Kahane

Mr. & Mrs. Roger E. Kass

Mr. & Mrs. Peter D. Kiernan III

Mr. & Mrs. William Leatherman

Mr. Peter E. Madden

The Honorable

Juliette C. McLennan

Mr. Brian McNally

Mr. Douglas L. Newhouse and

Dr. Holly M. Bannister

Mrs. Anne Owen-Pontez

Mr. & Mrs. George Petrovas

Mr. John Peixinho

Mrs. Frederick H. Prince

Mr. & Mrs. James A. Purviance

Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Schorsch

Mr. & Mrs. Jersmiah Shafer

Judy & Jerry Sheindlin

Luise Strauss

Ms. Barbara van Beuren and

Mr. Stephen L. Glascock

Mr. & Mrs. Archbold D. van Beuren

Happy van Beuren

Dede Wilsey

## PHOTOS TOP TO BOTTOM:

Crawford Hamilton, left and Show Manager Diana Bittel.

Jay and Bridget Newton

Annie Laurie Auersperg Isham and Norey Dotterer Cullen

Nancy T. Caraboolad and Maureen Donnell, show Honorary Co-Chair

PHOTOS: ANDREA HANSEN



# RECENT ACQUISITIONS



## WALLPAPER FRAGMENTS

Gift of Richard Fairgrieve (2019.004)

Two sections of 19th century wallpaper originally located in the Banister House on Pelham Street. The wallpaper fragments were discovered during a recent renovation of the property. The house was originally constructed in 1751-1754 by John Banister (1707-1767) a prominent Newport merchant, and remained in the Banister family until the 1820s. It was sold into the Sayer family in the 1850s. The house was used as the headquarters of General Richard Prescott during the British occupation of Newport in the American Revolution.

## WICKHAM FAMILY PAPERS

Gift of Bill Wickham (2019.021)

Collection of documents from the 18th century, primarily 1770s and 1780s related to Thomas Wickham (1700-1777) of Newport. This includes receipts, deeds and several documents related to the settling of Thomas Wickham's estate. They include multiple references to his son, also Thomas Wickham (1736-1816) of Newport, who was the executor of the estate. The papers mention other notable Newport names including: William Hunter (1729-1777), John Still Winthrop (1720-1776), John Cranston (1675-1751) and Joseph Wanton (1705-1780).



## WILFRED WARREN PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

Gift of Seamen's Church Institute (2019.026)

Collection of photographs, prints, postcards, lantern slides, glass plate negatives and some manuscript materials. The photographic albums cover the Newport Torpedo station, local street views, waterfront views and scenes from America's Cup races in the 1930s.



# Properties



## Great Friends Meeting House Repairs

Damage to structural features on the west side of the roof of the “new” section of the Great Friends Meeting House were repaired this spring by Rob Cagneta and Heritage Restorations. Rob’s analysis of the building demonstrated that something similar had occurred and been repaired on the east side years ago. His solution, a new wooden truss that holds everything more securely together, was fabricated in his shop and installed with the help of his students at Roger Williams University.



## Green End Fort

This summer, a new interpretive sign was erected at Green End Fort, one of Newport Historical Society’s properties, on Vernon Avenue in Middletown. Also known as Redoubt Saintonge, Green End Fort was constructed by American and French forces in 1780, fearing a return of the British Army from New York. It was under the command of the Comte de Custine-Sarreck and his Saintonge Regiment until the end of the Revolution, and was one of several earthwork redoubts protecting the ridge over the Green End/ Easton’s Pond valley. The sign was designed and constructed in cooperation with the Society of the Sons of the Revolution.

## ACADEMIC NEWS

The Newport Historical Society is pleased to be a member of the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium, a collaboration of 30 major cultural agencies offering at least two dozen awards in 2020-21. Each grant will provide a stipend of \$5,000 for a minimum of eight weeks of research at participating institutions.

Learn more at <http://www.masshist.org/fellowships/nerfc/> and for specific questions regarding researching at NHS, email [research@newporthistory.org](mailto:research@newporthistory.org).



# History Space

The Newport Historical Society continued its History Space initiative in 2018-2019 through a series of programs that took place in Newport and Providence. These events, which feature costumed living historians, allow the public to engage with the past through a diverse offering of events which range from site-specific first-person programs, where living historians represent specific personas from the past, to lectures based in third person-interpretation along with demonstrations, hands-on history and discussions about practicing public history.

*History Space partners include the Rhode Island Historical Society and the Redwood Library and Athenaeum.*



## Thank You to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Harris

who generously donated to the  
Newport Historical Society through a grant  
from The Edwin S. Webster Foundation  
to underwrite the Society's 2019  
History Space programming.



*Redcoats at the Redwood.*

## Programs (\* Indicates programs and lectures available on the NHS YouTube page.)

### **Redcoats at the Redwood – November 2018**

The Redwood Library's Harrison Room was transformed into a British Officer's Club in the manor as it may have been used during Newport's British Occupation in 1777. During this afternoon-event, living historians represented an array of personas and expressed their divergent opinions about life in a war-torn city. The program concluded by recreating an excerpt from a play written in Newport in the late 1770s about the Revolutionary War. Presented in partnership with the Redwood Library and Athenaeum.

### **Holiday Open House – December 2018**

To celebrate the start of the holiday season, costumed living historians sang 18th and early 19th century holiday songs and hymns during the NHS's annual Holiday Open House.

### **A Revolutionary Spinning Bee – February 2019**

Costumed historical interpreters representing Daughters and Sons of Liberty recreated one of the many spinning protests that took place in Newport in the years leading up to the Revolutionary War. Ladies carded wool, demonstrated the process of spinning and discussed the benefits of weaving homespun fabric, along with the non-importation agreements, as a way to show their support for the patriot cause.

### **Undressing History: Active Pursuits, Women's Sportswear c1900\* – February 2019**

Costume historian Quinn M. Burgess dressed in reproduction historical sportswear from 1885 to 1925 and explained ensembles for tennis, ice skating, bicycling, croquet and swimming. She outlined the cultural context for women's athletic activities during this era and how fashion functioned for these active pursuits. Presented in partnership with the Rhode Island Historical Society, this talk was offered twice, once in Providence and then again in Newport.

### **A Colonists' Wardrobe – April 2019**

Dan Rosen, 17th century tailor from Old England Grown New, discussed the clothing that Newporters would have worn in 1639 when the city was founded. Dan shared his extensive knowledge with visitors while showcasing the work of a colonial clothier.





What Cheer Day at the John Brown House.

### *What Cheer Day: Sports and Games from the 18th Century* – June 2019

Visitors experienced a diverse array of games and activities that residents in 18th century Rhode Island would have enjoyed. These activities included bowls, the colonial version of bocce/boule, rounders, an early variation on baseball and pall-mall (croquet) along with card games and children's toys. Presented in partnership with the Rhode Island Historical Society at the John Brown House in Providence.

### *History Space at the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House* – July–September 2019

Living historian Sean O'Brien presented a series of programs at the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House on select days during the summer. Each month featured a different theme: 18th century tailoring in July; Martin Howard's perspective on the 1765 Newport Stamp Act Protest in August; and the work of an 18th century apothecary in September. Visitors learned about these specific aspects of history as well as life in a historic seaport.

### *The Burning of "Liberty" and Life in 1769 Newport* \* – August 2019

During the Society's 6th annual living history event, over 50 costumed historians recreated aspects surrounding the 1769 burning of *The Liberty*. John Hancock's sloop that was seized by the Royal Navy the year prior. Participants represented divergent roles ranging from loyalist tax collectors to merchants impacted by the non-importation agreements, to Sons and Daughters of Liberty.

## Lectures

### *Interpreting Difficult History for the Public*\* – February and June 2019

Talking to the public about difficult history can be challenging. NHS Executive Director Ruth Taylor shared insight for those who work in public history on how the NHS manages this.

### *RHODI Conversations: The Newport Historical Society's History Space Initiative* – February 2019

As part of the Rhode Island Historical Society's RHODI Conversations series, NHS staff member Elizabeth Sulock presented a talk about the History Space initiative and shared case studies from past events such as *What Cheer Day: Life After the Gaspee Affair* and *After Dark: Browns, Bad Boys and Boudoirs* — both of which were presented in partnership with RIHS.



TOP: *Undressing History: Active Pursuits, Women's Sportswear c1900*.

ABOVE: The sixth annual Living History event *The Burning of "Liberty" and Life in 1769 Newport*.



# Upcoming Events

For details and registration, visit  
[NewportHistory.org](http://NewportHistory.org) or call 401-846-0813

## Lectures

### *Untold Stories from World War II Rhode Island*

Thursday, November 7, 2019, 5:30 PM /  
NHS Resource Center

Christian McBurney will speak for the first time about his newly-released book, *Untold Stories from World War II Rhode Island*. He will reveal long-forgotten stories, from Newport serving as the headquarters for the Atlantic Fleet from April 1941 to November 1944, to amazing secret innovations that were developed in the state for use by the armed forces overseas, and to recollections of Rhode Islanders when they were children or teenagers during the war years. The talk will last about 45 minutes, after which Christian will be available to sign books.



Newport Naval Station, Goat Island. NHS COLLECTION, P5659.



Costumed Interpreters singing Hymns at the 2018 Holiday Open House.

## Open House

### *Holiday Open House*

Sunday December 1, 2019, 3-5 PM / Colony House  
Admission is free, donations are welcome.

Start the season with a visit to the 1739 Colony House on Washington Square and hear hymns performed by costumed interpreters that were once sung in colonial Newport. A handout with lyrics will be provided, audience participation is encouraged. The *Christmas in Newport* official opening and tree lighting ceremony in Washington Square follows.



Costumed Living Historians reenacting a wedding. PHOTO: CAROLINE GODDARD

## History Space Event

### *Colonial Wedding Expo*

Saturday February 15, 2020, 10 AM - 1 PM / Colony House  
Admission is free, donations are welcome.

Much like the present day, weddings in colonial America were a time for celebrating however brides would not wear white gowns, nor were diamond rings and wedding registries the norm. Join the Newport History Society's team of costumed living historians to explore colonial wedding traditions during the annual winter History Space event.



# Exhibits

## History Mystery: The Newport Tower

### Museum of Newport History

For over three hundred years the Newport Tower, locally known as the Old Stone Mill, has stood atop the hill in what is now Touro Park. Over time, a myriad of theories about its intended use, dates of construction, and the identity of its builders have been discussed. Visit this exhibition to see the most prevalent theories about the tower's history, and the evidence used to argue each position. We encourage you to think like an historian, analyze the information presented, and draw your own conclusion about the Newport Tower.



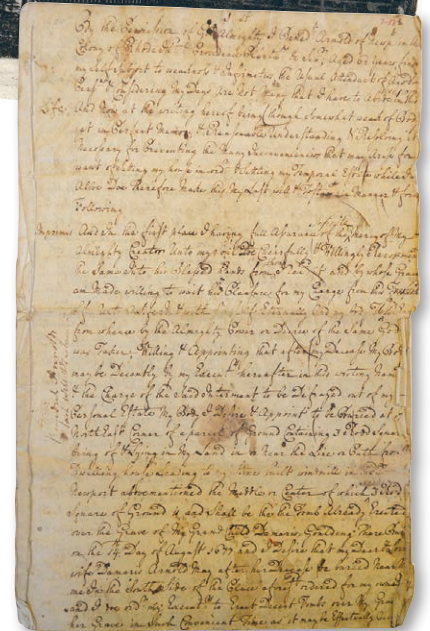
Postcard, circa 1905.  
NEWPORT HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY COLLECTION 2009.3.64

## 50th Anniversary of the Newport Bridge

### Museum of Newport History

June 28, 2019 marked 50 years since the Claiborne Pell Bridge (Newport Bridge) officially opened to traffic. The idea for the iconic structure was first broached in the 1930s, but faced a number of challenges in the ensuing decades before finally opening to traffic in June 1969. It is a symbol of technological progress and represents the beginning of a new era of travel to Aquidneck Island. This exhibition showcases images of the bridge under construction and provides a history of its planning and construction.

Photostat Benedict Arnold's  
Last Will and Testament, 1677.  
NEWPORT HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY COLLECTION.



The one-millionth car to cross the Newport Bridge, photographic negative, April 22, 1970. NEWPORT DAILY NEWS COLLECTION, NHS 2018.015.



## STAFF MEMBER PROFILES

### Kaela Bleho

Kaela joined the NHS in July as Photo Archivist and Manager of Digital Initiatives. Previously, Kaela was a project manager at a specialist provider of digitization solutions for cultural heritage institutions, where she ran projects nationally to preserve at-risk materials in digital form. She also spent time as a design and web production manager at a financial newspaper. Kaela is excited to put this experience to work at the NHS, to develop digital projects and showcase our diverse collections!



### Tim Parker

Tim recently joined the staff of the Newport Historical Society in September. Prior to joining the Newport History team, he worked as a zookeeper at Roger Williams Park Zoo for 11 years and came to NHS after 4 years as Lead Visitor Service/Gift Shop Manager at The Audubon Society of Rhode Island's Nature Center and Aquarium.



Tim has always had a passion for history and historic relics. He enjoys working in the non-profit sector, and looks forward to exploring his interest in the stories, objects, and "built-environments" of Newport's past.

Please stop by the Museum Shop to visit Tim, and say "hello."



### 40 Under Forty

Elizabeth Sulock, NHS Director of Public Programs, was given an award by the *Providence Business News* for being one of the 40 Under Forty in Rhode Island. The PBN had this to say about the awardees, "In my mind, it shows that accomplishment can come in waves, but mostly it comes when people with talent apply themselves with their hearts fully engaged in the enterprise at hand." Mark S. Murphy, Editor of the *Providence Business News*.



### IN MEMORIAM

#### HOPE POWEL ALEXANDER

Among Hope's many services to this community was a long term on the Board of Directors of the Newport Historical Society, where she also served as an officer. At the end of 2006, when Anne Hamilton approached this Board with the idea of creating a high-end antiques show as an annual event, Hope was one of the few who was both fearless and decisive: "We should do this." And she prevailed, to the great benefit of NHS.



Hope Powel Alexander (wearing a peach colored cardigan) PHOTO: ANDREA HANSEN





## An Epic Week

NHS collaborated with Epic Decade, a design thinking firm in Jamestown, to host three elements of a week of their innovative programming. At the Colony House Denise Young – acclaimed soprano and former Apple executive – and her trio engaged in a conversation

consisting of song, talk and inspired instrumentals.

Jessica Mason, founder and CEO of the Social Impact Studio, presented a workshop on developing an impactful life to a group of individuals engaged in work towards the public good. Finally, creating a moment of unusual exuberance for the Great Friends Meeting House, we hosted a performance of the Mixed Magic Theater Exult Choir, under the direction of Kim Pitts-Wiley. It was, in a word, magic.



PHOTOS: KATE FOSTER AND JOHN HESSELBARTH OF apparition

## 21ST CENTURY FUND

The 21st Century Fund represents the highest level of support for the Newport Historical Society. These individuals and organizations help to create an active and vital new century for Newport's history. The categories represent cumulative giving in the 21st century.

### \$1,000,000 AND UP

Alletta Morris McBean Foundation  
Helen D. Buchanan and the Helen D. Buchanan Trust  
van Beuren Charitable Foundation

### \$250,000—\$999,000

Anonymous  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard I. Burnham  
The Champlin Foundations  
Mrs. Samuel M.V. Hamilton and the Hamilton Family Foundation  
Edward W. Kane and Martha J. Wallace Foundation  
Prince Charitable Trusts  
Mr. and Mrs. William Leatherman and the Firestone Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Sippelle

Giving to all funds, including membership, counts for recognition in the 21st Century Fund. Donations to The Newport Show are included if a qualifying donation has also been made directly to the Newport Historical Society.





## *Endlessly Interesting Shopping Starts Here.*



### Newport Historical Society **Museum & Shop**

127 Thames Street, Newport, RI

401-841-8770

Open Daily 10 – 5

[ShopNewportHistory.com](http://ShopNewportHistory.com)

All members receive a 20% discount  
in the Museum of Newport History Shop.

Purchase your subscription to history at

[ShopNewportHistory.com](http://ShopNewportHistory.com)

The Museum of Newport History & Shop serves as a starting point for many visitors embarking on their exploration of Newport; whether touring the museum, joining a walking tour, or browsing the shop, visitors are introduced to Newport's History. *History Starts Here.* The Museum Shop curates merchandise that introduces Newport's history to visitors and presents a deep understanding of the present city of Newport.

One of the major ways Newport's history is incorporated into the story of Newport is by showcasing local craftspeople and artisans. While popular beyond the city of Newport today, the Museum of Newport History & Shop was the first retail store to purchase Jake and Steph Kopper's Shore Soap Company, who continue to handcraft inspired bath and body products in the Ocean State. The Newport Sea Salt Co., founded by Matthew Mullins, sustainably harvests and bottles pure, real, and briny sea salt from the reefs around Brenton Point in Newport.

The Museum Shop uses the NHS collections to inspire the creation of original products. Local artisan Sue Gray created a pendant from a casting of the Rhode Island Council Seal, which visitors can see on exhibit in the Museum of Newport History and Maritime Tribes, who make the original scrolls, ties, and scarves that feature images from the NHS collection.

The future of retail will require stores to provide something online shopping cannot; we believe through our personalized customer service, knowing our audience, and when possible, buying products produced by the people of Newport today, we will continue to be a starting point for endlessly interesting shopping.