# NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# History Starts Here

SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

**VOLUME 10** 



### Introduction

This issue of the Newport Historical Society's Newsletter is different than any we have made in the past, but the last few months have changed how we work, what we do and make, and how we view the past. Every part of the Society developed new ways to connect with you online, and to continue fulfilling the needs of our various audiences while adhering to the new normal of life during a global pandemic.

Although the future may feel uncertain, you may continue to look to us for historical context, comfort in the familiar, and educating entertainment as the days go forward. As you read through this issue, we hope that you take pride that all parts of your Newport Historical Society are still operating — just in a different way!





# Director's Note - What's next?

The world will be filled with essays on what we think we learned from the pandemic for the foreseeable future, I am sure. The truth is, we do not know the answer to this question, and won't, for a similar amount of time.

But, we are beginning to shape our inquiries, and this framing is important, as the questions that we ask will in many ways determine the answers that we find.

The initial whirlwind of activity that most cultural organizations engaged in—researching conditions and potential sources of support and establishing the parameters of a survival plan—has been followed for many of us by a growing realization. It seems that those temporary measures, founded in stress, might in fact be the building blocks of a new, and different future. Here at NHS, we came to recognize that the pandemic will affect behavior in a number of arenas—in America and in Newport specifically—throughout this year and into 2021, if not longer. Today, we are asking ourselves not "how fast can we get back to normal," but rather "what else needs to change?"

The question of whether the pandemic will be a pivotal moment for change has received considerable press and commentary. Darrell West of the Brookings Institution, a regular commentator here in Rhode Island, has suggested that he believes that "this crisis will accelerate that type of organizational change and just lead a lot of organizations to rethink how they are doing their day to day business." It seems that the pandemic, and the disruption it has caused, may accelerate lasting changes in how we work, learn, shop, recreate and travel. It may also be seen, in the end, as having changed how we measure success, national wellbeing, and productivity.

These are big picture concerns, but they have their local equivalents here at NHS. We are asking ourselves: what are the components of our recent, successful adaptation to change? How do we feel about where we landed? What needs to stay, and what can be left behind, of both the old and the new ways of doing business? And, how will our field as a whole, deeply challenged by this crisis (some 95% of American museums have closed since March, and 13% may not reopen), move forward? As we think about this, we are looking at statistics and advice prepared by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), and by our regular guides to understanding museum audiences: Colleen Dillenshneider and Susie Wilkening. All are suggesting that patterns of museum attendance and support will not return to what we knew as normal any time soon, if at all.

At a recent virtual meeting of the American Alliance of Museums, Anthony Salcito, a Vice President at Microsoft, made some pretty bold claims about the future of our institutions. We are not going back, he suggested, pointing out that many museums that successfully transitioned into online activities saw a growth in engagement, not a loss, during the pandemic closures. Here at NHS, online visitation has gone up for the pandemic period about 70% over last year, and our virtual audience is now more than 4x our real-life one, even in a good year. It is also broader and more inclusive, including individuals from across the country and around the world, even when they cannot travel.

Salcito believes that the effects of the pandemic will be long-standing, and that schools and many other activities in America will not abandon online programming and learning. He suggests that going forward, museums that excel will recognize this. In the short term, this means limiting physical contact in exhibits, sales and programs and monitoring them and adjusting to national and local norms and patterns. In the longer term, it means understanding that digital channels must be an element of all offerings, that not all jobs will return as they were, and even that artificial intelligence may play a role in how research is done. Salcito's most forward-looking predictions may be a stretch, but he is not, generally speaking, far out on a limb.

Changing, and evaluating change, is something that the NHS has practiced in the past dozen years. The work that we did so quickly and successfully in the last half of March to reorganize our activities was fueled by the resiliency that NHS had built during the multi-year process of revitalizing and reinventing itself. That nimbleness, willingness to flex ourselves around the core of our mission and focus on our team as an essential component of any success, are, I learned at the same American Alliance of Museums meeting, characteristics of an abundance mindset.

In this view, articulated in a number of business publications over the past several years, the organization and its leadership focus on the assets that are available to them and the ability of the organization to shape its response to mission, rather than focusing on the things that are lacking or scarce. Abundance-focused organizations are values-driven and believe that solutions to problems can be found. They are dynamic and willing to bend and adjust, because the goal is to move forward and accomplish the tasks, not to support existing structures and expectations. This mindset, we were told, will likely be helpful to cultural organizations struggling to adapt to change.

So, as we plan for the future of the Newport Historical Society, we will seek to use this perspective to shape the questions that we ask ourselves. We will try to focus less on "when can we start doing what we have always done," and rather ask ourselves what our mission will look like in the post-pandemic world of the months ahead. We will seek to flex and adapt to the changing world, with one constant in mind: that history matters.

- Ruth S. Taylor, *Executive Director* 

# Strategic Plan Update

The NHS has a practice of rolling strategic planning, which has served us well over the past years. We look forward to initiating this process for 2020 and beyond. This will involve both evaluation of existing programs and projections about the future. We will be focused on creating a plan for what our core programs should be in the next two to three years, given all we have learned during the pandemic, and accounting for national projections about travel, education, and recreation.



### **Newport Historical Society**

Resource Center

82 Touro Street, Newport, RI 02840 | 401-846-0813

Museum of Newport History & Shop

127 Thames Street, Newport, RI 02840 | 401-841-8770

#### **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

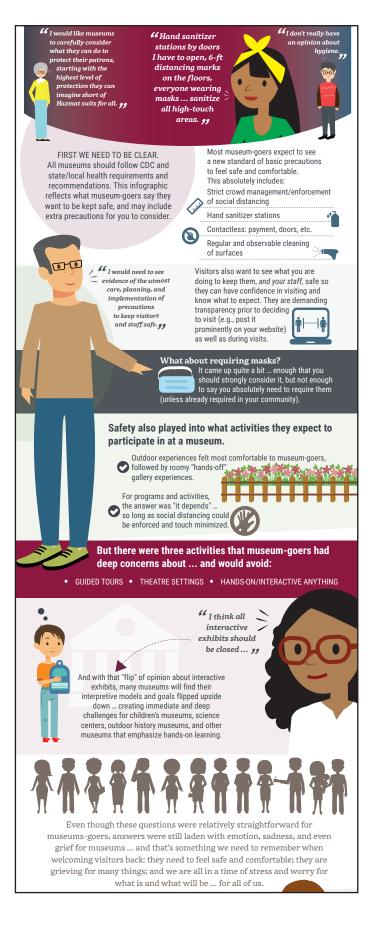
For more information go to:

NewportHistory.org ShopNewportHistory.com NewportHistoryTours.org

# Museums and the Pandemic: When Will Audiences Return?

When the pandemic hit and museums and cultural organizations were forced to close, the organizations which collect and analyze data about museum audiences leapt into action. The data they are collecting, which changes month to month as the situation continues to evolve, has been enormously helpful in our planning and thinking about the future. Here, Wilkening Consulting and the American Alliance of Museums present data on visitation and support.









With our society struggling with so many immediate and basic needs, how will museums survive long-term? Our next Pandemic Data Story will share what museum-goers think.

## Museums and the Pandemic: Will People Support Us?





First, some not-so-great news In our broader population sampling, 3/4 of Americans are "somewhat" or "extremely" worried about local





What about museum-goers specifically?

Most of the museum-goers in our panel were unaware museums were facing challenges

... at this point I have not heard about the impact on museums. 99

And a few dismissed the challenges, noting museums were government-run, could get donations, or receive grants ... not realizing those revenue streams are also impacted (or that most museums are not government entities).



So we asked museum-goers how they felt the loss of museums would affect them, either through closures or dramatically reduced services. Most said something similar to this:

### THERE WERE FIVE THEMES THAT EMERGED:



1 COMMUNITY IDENTITY. AND MEMORY (MOST COMMONLY CITED)

LEARNING **OPPORTUNITIES** 

ECONOMIC IMPACT AND 4 INCLUSION WELLBEING (LEAST COMMONLY CITED)

Our museums help keep our collective memory alive. If we lost even one of these important institutions, it would be like someone had blown out a candle lights on a vital piece of our society. A huge blow to children's education. These trips help spark curiosity.

organizations telling the marginalized communities. many of those stories

Without these widely share at all. 99



"I find myself getting more and more depressed as I continue writing, so I think I'm going to stop. 99



Despite the grief museum-goers expressed at the potential loss of museums and programming, there was little indication that it would translate into financial support.



"Feeding people and tending to their emotional and social needs is more important because of basic survival. Culture is a luxury for those with adequate food, clothing and housing.

Repeatedly, museum-goers





Some, however, expressed long-term concern for what our communities and society would look like if museums were allowed to fail. They said they would continue to support museums and that government should step in.

> If the government is willing to finance \$3 trillion to help businesses and families then they can earmark some of that money for museums. Museums give us culture. With so many unemployed with layoffs continuing to stack up it is irresponsible for the government to think that people will step in for donations. They can't donate enough to keep all the museums open ... The government should help in some way.99

What all of this boils down to is that no matter how beloved we are, at this time we are not seen as vital. If we are to make a case for being necessary to individuals, communities, and our society, we'll have adapt and become vital ... or risk obsolescence.



... if they cannot adapt to this climate and ride it though, and then return and open to the public, they may not be serving the community or be that valuable. Not all museums are important and I truly believe that those that are will be just fine and live to open to the public again.



What is the role of museums in providing hope and healing to anxious and grieving audiences? Our next Pandemic Data Story will share what museum-goers think.

s and the Pandemic Data Stories can be found at wilkeningconsulting.com/data-st





# HISTORY AT HOME

The Newport Historical Society's 'History at Home' initiative was launched just days after the closure of the Museum of Newport History in mid-March; by Monday March 16, we created a landing page on the NHS website to showcase newly minted digital content and resource guides, aimed at meeting a surge in demand for online educational materials.

The NHS prioritized sharing this new content with the public through social media, our various web platforms, press releases, and e-newsletters, which resulted in a significant increase in digital engagement over an 8-week period.

While #HistoryFromHome, and #MuseumFromHome have become standard tools used by other organizations to bolster

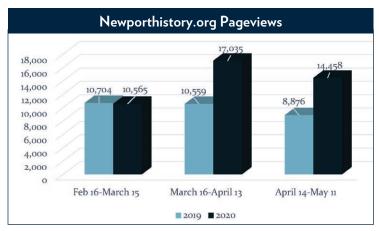
public interest and maintain collections access, our initiative stands apart in terms of the speed of its establishment and the variety of our digital offerings. From History Byte blog posts to video interviews with scholars and living historians, we sought creative ways of maintaining our connection to history while generating exciting virtual content.

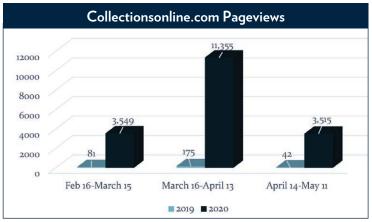
It is difficult to establish a metric of success for any program in these unprecedented times. However, we can use our current web analytics, compared to this time last year, to demonstrate the efficacy of our rapid-response outreach program in bolstering page views. This, we hope, demonstrates an upward trend of public engagement with our extensive digital offerings.

### Museum 360° Tour

While the Museum of Newport History has been temporarily closed for visitation, NHS was able to launch a new 360° tour that allows visitors to virtually experience the museum's exhibition. Through the tour, visitors can explore the museum's exhibits, zoom in on sections and click to read all exhibit text as if they were actually in the space. Since the launch of the tour on March 19, 2020:

Impressions: 8224 • Visits: 830 • Unique Visitors: 651









### Social Media

As a result of the move to all-digital platforms, our social media marketing strategy shifted as well. Our previous posts focused on driving attendance and attention to our in-person programming, including lectures, History Space events and walking tours. As part of the "History at Home" initiative, our social media was revamped as a medium to disseminate new digital content to our audiences across the globe and remain engaged with those constituents.

A comparison of our social media engagement across all active platforms (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) shows that NHS maintained consistent levels of interaction and reach during this drastic shift in post content. Supported by the website metrics, our audiences were interested in and excited about consuming the stories of Newport's history in whatever way we could convey them.

### YouTube — March 26 through May 27, 2020

History at Home Playlist: Total Videos: 27

Total Views: 1890

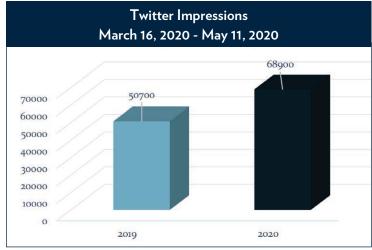
Channel Views: Total Views: 6,821

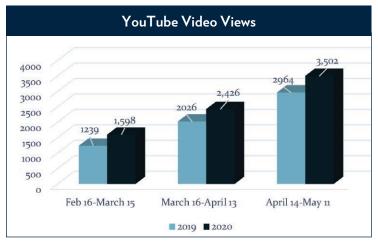
Watch Time: 509.7 minutes • New Subscribers: 35

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 8]







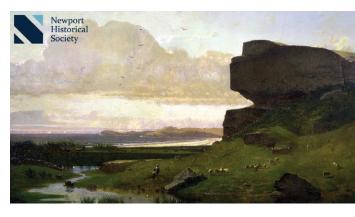


# HISTORY AT HOME

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7]

### YouTube Videos Created — mid-March through June 1st:

- History at Home with Tom Schachtman
- Living History at Home with Newport Sailor Nathanael Doggett
- Living History at Home with Colonial Teacher Hannah Bradford
- History at Home Author Serena Zabin & The Boston Massacre
- Living History at Home with Mrs. Hannah Rodrigues Rivera
- History at Home with Middle School History Teacher Michele
- Living History at Home with Newport Bookseller Nathanael Bird
- History at Home Rutgers University Public Historian in Residence Dr. Nicole Belolan
- Living History at Home with Governor Joseph Wanton
- History at Homestead 18th Century Yeast Starter
- History at Home Jessie MacLeod, Associate Curator at George Washington's Mount Vernon
- Living History at Home with a 1773 Newport Loyalist
- NewportTogether Ringing the Bells of the Colony House
- History at Homestead 17th Century Gardening
- History at Home Rhode Island and 19th Amendment
- History at Homestead Making Butter in a Churn
- Living History at Home with a Sergeant in the Continental Army
- History at Home Newport Gardner & Slavery in Rhode Island
- Living History at Home Colonial Era Medical Practices
- History at Homestead Pickling & Preservation in the 18th Century
- History at Home Building a Career in Public History
- History at Homestead Making Candied Violets with Colonial-Era Recipes
- Living History at Home Milkmaids and the Smallpox Vaccine
- History at Home Commemorating 19th Amendment at the National Archives
- History at Homestead Historical Food Hacks
- History at Home America's Tea Heritage
- History at Homestead Tea Etiquette



### **Zoom Backgrounds**

Part of staying at home during this time was spent attending many virtual meetings and Zoom backgrounds became a fashion statement, and a way to hide a messy house. The NHS made Zoom backgrounds from archival photographs and made them available for free on the NHS website.



### Featured Museums

The NHS was not the only historical society that created content for #HistoryAtHome, #HistoryfromHome or #MuseumFromHome during the pandemic. The NHS felt it was important to amplify other institutions with similar approaches and offerings.









THE GILDER LEHRMAN INSTITUTE of AMERICAN HISTORY RICHARD GILDER, CO-FOUNDER MAY 31, 1932 - MAY 12, 2020









### Anatomy of a Post

When social media and websites are exploding with fresh content, things can get a little overwhelming. At NHS we tried to tie all the different aspects of our content together in themes. Here is an anatomy of how we tied all our different web presences together around an Apothecary theme on the Museum Shop Web Store, YouTube, Instagram and Facebook.



### Anatomy of a Post

1. Caswell-Massey historic images shared on @NewportHistory

68 Likes 746 Accounts Reached 781 Impressions 6 Profile Visits & Shares



4. Video is embedded on ShopNewportHistory.com....



America's Oidest Apothecary

Did you know Caseroll Massey was founded in Newport in 1932.

De William Higher of Section is 11 22 - 1470 came is America in 1752 and
stabilished a medical practice in Newyort, Bibols Island where he run an apotherun
published term is in the fasted Caseroll Lissey. Dr. Buster also gave once of the first
publish bettern on an anatomy in the Colories and was appetitude surport in Bubols
Island troops charge the Seyne Your Was and Devolutionary Was.

She below the secret Dr Hatter's articular rescribes, which have been preferred

Dr. Hunter's Remedie

Content is adapted and cross-posted on Facebook

21 Likes 1 Share 455 Reached 38 Engagements



5. ...and linked to a collection of products

286 Pageviews



3. YouTube video with a living historican portraying an Apothecarist

124 Views 4 Likes 1 Comment 1 New Subscriber



6. Then, boosted on @ShopNewportHistory

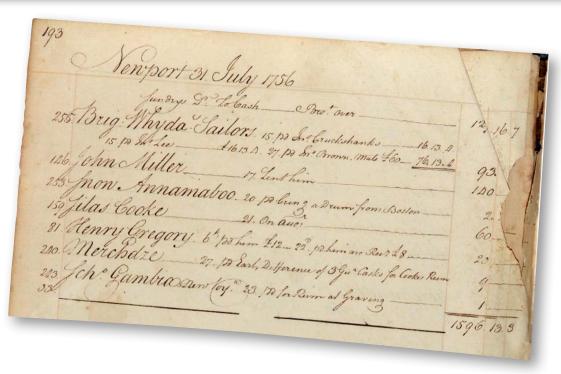
> 14 Likes 180 Impressions



## ACADEMIC NEWS

When we temporarily closed our Resource Center to in-person researchers and visitors, we were forced to change the way we interact with the public, a reinvention that is ongoing. While the numbers of onsite visitors are obviously down, the income for academic services is way up thanks to our ability to meet the needs of patrons remotely.

The research requests vary from answering ready reference questions, sharing digital resources, consulting, and fulfilling image and general inquiries. Our patrons vary too, with questions from real estate agents, homeowners, genealogists, academics, and others.



A staff favorite remote research request involved diving into the archives to look for mention of a mid-18th century ship *Anambaboo* on behalf of a researcher from The George Washington University's "The Slave Wrecks Project."

Page from the Grant Heatly Daybook 1755-1759, Volume 70 referencing the Ship *Annambaboo*. COLLECTIONS OF THE NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Since it may be awhile before we open the Resource Center doors to the public, here is a guide to our existing online resources:

### STAFF RESEARCH REQUESTS:

### **Property Research:**

If you are interested in researching a property local to Newport, including determining date of construction, chain of ownership, as well as reviewing historic property images from our collections, our staff will be able to compile a research report on your behalf.

### Genealogy:

Interested in researching your family tree, or individuals known to be associated with Newport? Our staff genealogist will be able to conduct research on your behalf.

### **Manuscript Collections:**

To learn more about what materials are housed in our archives, please consult our manuscript index and finding aids found at:

https://collections.newporthistory.org/index.php/ Collections/index

When you contact us please include the collection name and inventory ID.

### **Object & Artifact Collections:**

If you have located items from our collection in our online database and would like us to conduct further research into our collection on your behalf, please record the object number and reach out to our collections staff.

#### Photo Orders:

If you are interested in acquiring an image of any of our collections objects or items from our photo archive please review our reproduction and image use fee structure. When you contact us be sure to include the Object number of the item you are interested in, as well as the complete nature of the request (research, personal use, or publication).

### **COLLECTIONS ONLINE:**

Search and discover our Collections Hub at https://collections.newporthistory.org/

which contains records for our object and photograph collections. Use the search bar to call up specific terms and browse our materials. This database is especially useful for:

### General Research:

Learn more about Gilded age Newport, Newport mansions, notable properties & streets and Newport events.

### **Historic Events:**

View collections chronicling significant events, from the aftermath of the devastating hurricane of 1938, to the redevelopment of Thames street in the 1960s-1970s.

### **Daily Scenes:**

Curious about how people dressed in the 1860s? Interested in historic automobiles? Look no further!



Oil painting of Washington Square also known as "The Parade" by an unidentified Hessian artist, circa 1818. NHS 94.4.1.



# COLLECTIONS ONLINE GALLERIES:

NHS Collections staff have begun to focus their curation energy on creating customized galleries within our online collections database, found at

https://collections.newporthistory.org/

The galleries allow visitors to explore NHS' expansive collections based on object type or historical topic.
Current galleries include Charles McKim's portfolio, NHS painting collection, Samplers and Newport in the American Revolution. Keep an eye out as new galleries are added!

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RIGHT: Sampler made by Mary Tillinghast in Newport, RI circa 1772. NHS 01.202.

 ${\small \mathsf{LEFT:}}\ \ \mathsf{NHS}\ \mathsf{painting}\ \mathsf{collection}\ \mathsf{storage}.$ 

# Newport Together

At noon on Friday April 17, 2020, NHS staff rang the Colony House bell on Washington Square in a show of solidarity with Newport's entire community. Since then, the Colony House bell has continued to ring at noon each Friday as part of the #NewportTogether movement to help us remember that we are in this together. NHS has been joined in the bell ringing by Newporters near and far, ringing bells in their homes, and other organizations throughout the City.

The bell ringing was inspired by the community celebrations of heroism and solidarity during the Covid pandemic, but also by Newport's unique and continuing history.

Through conflict, moral growth and moral failings, economic highpoints and depressed depths, in diversity, and in spite of prejudice, inequities, differences and disputes, we are all here, together.

We would like to thank the following community organizations who have joined us in this effort:

Channing Memorial Church St. John the Evangelist Church WADK Newport Emmanuel Church

St. Paul's United Methodist Church Cenacle Chapel at Harbor House Sanford-Covell Villa Marina Hammetts Wharf



Roof top view of the Colony House bell.



















# Virtual Field Trip

This past May, the Newport Historical Society presented its first virtual field trip, Newport's Road to Revolution + Meet Martin Howard. Over 100 middle school students from the Barrington School System spent an hour exploring the early conflicts in Newport and Rhode Island that ultimately sparked the American Revolution.

They met Martin Howard, a prominent Newport lawyer who was just attacked during the 1765 Stamp Act Riots and had sought shelter on a British ship in the harbor. Teacher Traci Taglione explains, "spending time virtually with Martin Howard opened my students" eyes to the life altering decisions some colonists had to make prior to the Revolution. They also learned of Newport's significance and the very political role both tea and coffee played during this era."

LEFT: The at-home set of NHS' first virtual field trip.

# Newport Historical Society Museum & Shop

Before Covid-19, the Museum of Newport History and Shop was open every day of the year (only exceptions being Christmas, Thanksgiving, and St. Patrick's Day). Each day we had opportunities to spark visitors' interest in Newport's history through conversations around our original and uniquely curated merchandise. When it was no longer safe to operate as usual and our physical doors closed to visitors, we creatively adapted to continue to bring in revenue while contributing to the Newport Historical Society's *History at Home* initiative.

Our first focus was updating our webstore with in-stock merchandise and ensuring that the products were organized and easy to find. Compared to March through May of last year, our dollars sold online grew by 458% and we increased our online conversion rate by 548%. We also focused on our Instagram presence by scheduling more posts and stories, promoting posts, targeted hashtags, and linking images to products on the webstore. From mid-March to the end of May this year, targeted hashtags, have gathered over 60,000 impressions on Instagram and grown our followers by 5%.

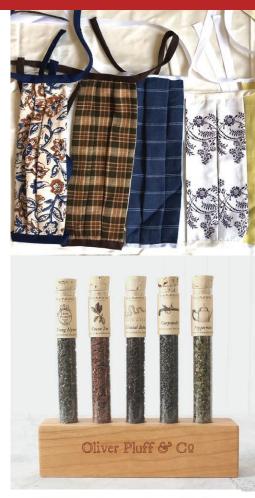
It will be no surprise the bestselling items during this time included ways to pass the time at home, and cloth face masks. We sold our entire inventory of puzzles within the first few days and quickly sourced fast shipping puzzle vendors to restock. To promote Governor Raimondo's *RI Reads at Home Challenge*, we curated book pairings that focused on the same topic for caregiver and child. Book pairing topics range from Jackie Kennedy and lighthouses, to material culture and Frederick Douglas. We also sold cloth face coverings in April thanks to our Director of Public Programming, Elizabeth Sulock, who volunteered to sew her scrap historical fabric into reusable face masks.

Throughout quarantine, we continually collaborate (now virtually) with the rest of NHS staff to choose products to promote based on the planned *History at Home* content. In early May, we sourced products from *Farm Steady*, including a home pickling kit to provide an opportunity for those inspired by the *History at Home* video conversation with Kate Weller, a living historian, who discussed the importance of pickling in the 18th century.

Another example of this integrated content planning includes historical tea by one of our bestselling vendors, *Oliver Pluff & Co.* Elizabeth Sulock recently sat down for

a History at Home video conversation about popular historical tea varieties with their owner, Darren Hartford, which we featured on the home page of our webstore along with a promotion to receive a free tea packet with qualifying purchase.

While the doors to the Museum of Newport History and Shop have remained physically closed during the Covid-19 quarantine, we look forward to keeping our virtual doors open in the future. We have learned the value and potential of our online commerce, the importance of frequent social media marketing, and look forward to helping grow the Newport History brand online through our mission-focused webstore.







# HISTORY SPACE

The Newport Historical Society's History Space initiative kicked off 2020 with two very different living history events - the annual Winter Festival event at the Colony House, which focused on colonial wedding traditions, and a 250th anniversary event in downtown Boston commemorating the Boston Massacre.







#### TOP: Ladies portray different aspects of 18th century wedding traditions, dressing a bride and Moravian life.

ABOVE: Interpreting the 1777 wedding ceremony of Capt. Andrew Bruce to Henrietta Overing.

RIGHT: An 18th century pie.

### **Colonial Wedding Expo**

On Saturday February 15, 2020, the Society presented its annual February History Space program, Colonial Wedding Expo. As the title suggests, this year's theme featured all aspects of 18th century weddings. Two dozen living historians discussed topics including:

- \* Recipes and special foods that were commonly served to celebrate
- Traditions practiced by different religious groups in Newport including the Society of Friends and Moravians, along with common wedding traditions such as recreating a trousseau and wedding merriment.
- Clothing worn by the bride and groom on their special day, along with a dressing scenario.
- Love stories of Newporters who were married at the time of the American Revolution like Daniel Lyman and Polly Wanton.

The event concluded by recreating the wedding ceremony of Henrietta Overing and Capt. Andrew Bruce, who wed during the Battle of Rhode Island in August 1777.



### The Boston Massacre

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the Boston Massacre when, on March 5, 1770, British soldiers, who were harassed by a mob, shot and killed five men. One of the men killed, Samuel Grey, was a Tiverton, RI native. On Saturday March 7, 2020 the NHS, in partnership with Revolutionary Spaces, the new organization formed through the merger of The Bostonian Society and the Old South Meeting House, presented its largest History Space to date—the Boston Massacre Reenactment & Commemoration.

Over 100 living historians traveled from two dozen states to recreate the tensions that were present in 1770 Boston. Vignettes were presented at the Old South Meeting House where interpretative scenarios included a tavern, almshouse, ladies' tea along with a trades demonstration and uniform lecture. During the afternoon, visitors could experience the tensions at a recreated rope walk brawl, which took place just across the street from the Meeting House or visit the Edes & Gill Print Shop at Faneuil Hall to hear a heated debate between Paul Revere and Henry Pelham. Other scenarios included singing songs that were popular with the Sons of Liberty and mini walking tours between the different sites.

Interpretative scenarios were also presented at the Old State House, the center for this historic event, which included a 1770 Council Meeting in the Council Chamber, a presentation about the women in 1770 Boston, changing of the guard, a football match and a heated dispute, along with the evening reenactment and commemoration ceremony.



Recreating a 1770 Council Meeting at the Old State House, Boston.







ТОР ТО ВОТТОМ:

British soldiers patrol the streets of Boston;

A brawl between British soldiers and disgruntled rope walk workers;

Living historian Jessica Hanley represents a colonial knife grinder.

# CIVIC Conversations

Drawing on history, current affairs and the state of the Nation, the NHS has been assembling friends, members and individuals new to us to talk together, seriously and civilly, about issue of current concern that may be informed by an historical perspective Newport has been a place of conversation and debate, of dissent and disappointment for almost 400 years. What better place, we decided, to practice talking about the things that matter?

To date, we have asked ourselves three questions:

- ♦ What does liberty mean to Americans today?
- ♦ What does a crisis ask of us as Americans?
- ♦ What does it mean to be an American?

The next conversation on questions of protest in America will be held on July 9. More information and summaries of conversations, can be found at **NewportHistory.org** by searching for "Civic Conversations."

The events are created with the assistance of Jim Ludes and G. Wayne Miller of the Pell Center's *Story in the Public Square*, and with the support of the EJMP Fund for Philanthropy, Karen Lloyd, Diana Pearson, and the Zennovation Fund for Community Innovation.



### **Newport Historical Society Staff**

Ruth S. Taylor, Executive Director
Ingrid Peters, Deputy Director, Academic Services
Kaela Bleho, Photo Archivist and
Manager of Digital Initiatives

Christine Gorham, Staff Accountant

Daureen Lingley, Business Manager

Bertram Lippincott III, Reference Librarian and Genealogist

Bridget Newton, Registrar

Tim Parker, Assistant Manager of Museum and Shop

Heather Rockwood, Development and Marketing Associate

Elizabeth Sulock, *Director of Public Programs*Jenna Teachout, *Manager of Museum and Shop* 



### STAFF MEMBER PROFILE

## Daureen Lingley

Daureen joined the Newport Historical Society in January as the Business Manager. Previously, Daureen worked for 13 years at Bristol Community College in the Business and Experiential



Education Department. During that period, she also advised several start-up and existing companies on instituting generally accepted accounting practices, setting up accounting information and data management systems and procedures. In her free time, she can be found working at a local organic farm or walking in the woods with four-legged friends.

Daureen is naturally curious and is excited to work for a non-profit organization where she'll have the opportunity to learn more about Newport and be a part of the Newport Historical Society team.

### ≈ IN MEMORIAM

#### RALPH N. DISAIA

A Rhode Island native, Ralph was a graduate of Providence College and had a career as a tennis coach before entering the antique oriental carpeting business. He and his wife Karen owned and operated Oriental Rugs Ltd. and DiSaia Management. Ralph served as the facilities manager of The Newport Show since its beginning. He was a beloved figure at The Show and when he wasn't manning his own booth, Ralph effortlessly glided around the show helping other vendors, met with fuel deliveries, security details and the support staff of St. George's School, among many other things. His friendly and easy nature will be missed at future shows. He passed on November 22, 2019 at his home in Connecticut.

### **DAYTON THOMAS CARR**

Dayton was a champion sailor since his youth and served as commodore of the Brown University Yacht Club as an undergraduate. He was the founder of Venture Capital Fund of America. He served as a director of the National Sailing Hall of Fame and helped steer it to its new location in Newport. Always interested in Newport's history, Dayton was a great supporter of the Newport Historical Society and other institutions. His quick wit and hyper-enthusiasm for our projects will be missed. He passed at his home in New York City on April 7, 2020.

### **EUGENE BOWIE ROBERTS, JR.**

The son of Eugene Roberts and Cornelia Szechenyi, Gene was involved in real estate and agricultural pursuits. He was particularly interested in family history in Maryland and Newport and supported many institutions in the city, including the Newport Historical Society. He passed in Maryland on April 18, 2020.

# THE NEWPORT SHOW WILL BE VIRTUAL IN 2020!



Working with John Smiraldo of Incollect and Antiques & Fine Art Magazine The Newport Show will have an online platform for our dealers and beneficiaries—the Newport Historical Society, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County. We are looking forward to a different, but still beautiful and entertaining event. Details are still under preparation; for the latest updates visit:

www.TheNewportShow.com
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The Newport Show will return in real life next summer with the art, antiques and exquisite objects that its patrons and customers expect and enjoy; mark your calendars for July 23rd – 25th 2021.

Our thanks go out to the dealers who travel from around the world, the underwriters and supporters who help produce the Show, the patrons who make purchases, and the thousands of visitors who attend each year.

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Mr. and Mrs. F. Bruce Westgate

Mr. Charles W. Wharton III



Admission ticket for Mrs. Mary Cowley's Coffee House dated November 6, 1766, NHS FIC.2013.75.

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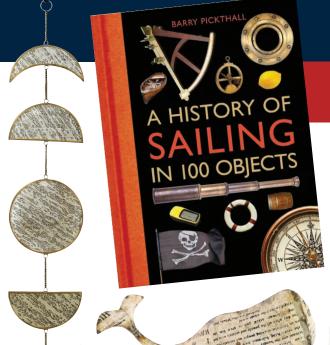
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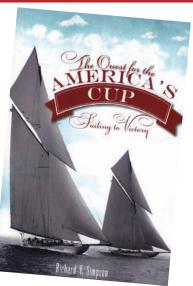
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