

NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

History Starts Here

FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 11



Civic Conversations ✧ The Newport Show ✧ Rhode Island Suffrage

Director's Note

I am old enough to have lived through many moments now considered historic, but it has never felt more obvious that we are making history then it does right now. And it is unusually clear that organizations like NHS, which are the custodians of our history, can have a relevant, and indeed vibrant role to play in changing times.



Relevance does not mean altering our mission. For all the changes we have experienced, our mission remains almost identical to what it was in 1853: to collect the things that make it possible for us to study, preserve and transmit the history of Newport and its place in the world. Doing this work today, however, has involved real changes to our status quo. Not least of which was a strong re-emphasis on individual fundraising, as we watched our earned income fall by over 40%.

When I began to reach out to our donors in the spring—by mail, email and telephone—I had no idea what to expect. And, I warned our staff that membership could really fall away, as it has in many other places. The world was in disarray, and an important museum survey suggested that while our supporters cared about us, they were worried about other things more.

But this is not what we discovered. Our friends and donors stepped up, and in fact we found new ones as the pandemic moved through the country. Our efforts to continue to get Newport's history in front of visitors—especially virtual ones—caught the attention of many. And a good number of our core supporters, some of whom were asked not just to give but to increase their giving, agreed with enthusiasm. Our members, who were slow to renew in March and April, came roaring back in May, with more than a few upping their level of support.

So, we are grateful. Profoundly and humbly thankful for the value that you all have placed on our work, and your willingness to “subscribe to history” by supporting it. While there are still tough times ahead, and much work to be done to continue and solidify our successes, we know that we do not have to prove our value to the community. You have shown us that you know.

In this issue, in addition to updates on programming and activities in the pandemic era, we are highlighting some of the things, and the people, that we are grateful for. Thank you all, and please stay with us. We will continue to need your support.

— Ruth S. Taylor, *Executive Director*



Look for this symbol throughout this issue highlighting some of the things and people for which we are grateful.

Strategic Planning

We have begun to assemble data about how our work has changed in the last six months, whether we are reaching our audiences effectively with new and experimental approaches, and what others in the museum field are thinking about the future.

While the information is very preliminary, we are starting to be able to shape some useful questions. Here is one example: the online world has become very crowded with offerings from cultural institutions, just as our audiences are experiencing “Zoom fatigue.” While some of our programs have rapidly expanded their audiences (online collections resources, for example), others are less visible, and less used. One question we might ask ourselves, is “how do we rise above the noise?”

From a strictly financial standpoint we must recognize that if 2021 looks anything like 2020, with constrained sources of earned income, we are likely facing another tough year. We need to explore some likely scenarios based on data from the museum field, tourism trends, and what we expect might happen with the pandemic and its remedies as well as the US economy. This will be the work of staff and Board through the winter of 2020/21.

Analytics: January 1 – October 20, 2020

NewportHistory.org

Pageviews: 147,553

Users: 38,138

New Visitors: 88.9%, Returning Visitors: 11.1%

ShopNewportHistory.com

Pageviews: 36,730

Users: 6,505

New Visitors: 90.5%, Returning Visitors: 9.5%

Collections.NewportHistory.org

Pageviews: 116,454

Users: 82,244

New Visitors: 99.4%, Returning visitors: 0.6%

YouTube

Views: 25,177

New subscribers: 129

Total subscribers: 430

CIVIC CONVERSATION SERIES

In early March of 2020, the Newport Historical Society embarked on a series of conversations on topics of civil discourse. The topics discussed were:

- ◆ What does a crisis ask of us as Americans?
- ◆ What does it mean to be an American?
- ◆ What does liberty mean to Americans today?
- ◆ How American is protest, and how much protest is American?
- ◆ The ‘Truth’ in America today.
- ◆ What should be part of a patriotic education?

Although the first meeting was in person, Zoom has revealed itself to be in many ways a perfect format for this kind of conversation. We can all see each other's faces, we can have quiet sidebars in the chat room, and we can indicate our support of a speaker without interrupting them. While we all look forward to getting together in person sometime soon, the NHS is very enthusiastic about continuing this series online.

The events are created with the assistance of Jim Ludes and G. Wayne Miller Salve Regina University Pell Center's *Story in the Public Square*, and with the support of the EJMP Fund for Philanthropy, Karen Lloyd and Diana Pearson. Thank you to all supporters, moderators, and attendees for making these conversations thoughtful, insightful, and cordial.



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



TOP: An image of the participants on Zoom where we discussed how American is protest, and how much protest is American, on July 2, 2020.

ABOVE: At the second Civic Conversation in April, the first on Zoom, on April 6, 2020 where we discussed “what a crisis asks of us as Americans.”



THE NEWPORT SHOW

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

In July 2020, the 14th Annual Newport Show, a week of
antiques, art and exquisite objects, took place virtually.
In this extraordinary year we are so grateful to our
Founders, patrons, supporters, sponsors, contributors,
exhibitors, and partners.

Thank you to our media sponsors: *American Fine
Art Magazine, Antiques & Fine Art Magazine,
The Magazine Antiques, New England Home, and
The Public's Radio.*

Thank you to John Smioldo from Incollect and
Antiques & Fine Art Magazine for working with us
to create a way for you to enjoy the exhibitors in an
attractive and easily accessible website.

Thank you to the Founders and other donors who
made this 14th year of an important Newport tradition
possible.

Thank you to Diana Bittel who rallied the exhibitors for
the online show and who always supports us.

And thank you to the person whom we owe all of this,
Mrs. S. Matthews V. Hamilton, Jr. — without her,
there would be no Newport Show!

PHOTOS TOP TO BOTTOM:

Diana Bittel of Diana H. Bittel Antiques

Bob Haneberg of The Hanebergs Antiques

Arlie Sulka of Lillian Nassau, LLC

James Butterworth of Antique American Wicker



James Butterworth/
Antique American Wicker



Arader Galleries



Diana H. Bittel Antiques



David Brooker Fine Art



Dinan & Chighine



Find Weatherly LLC



D. M. DeLaurentis/
Fine Antique Prints



Roberto Freitas American
Antiques & Decorative Arts



THE NEWPORT SHOW 2020 FOUNDERS

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Ms. Barbara van Beuren and Mr. Stephen L. Glascock
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Ms. Diane B. Wilsey



PHOTOS TOP TO BOTTOM:

A screenshot of the online dealer's hall

Lori Thompson Finke and Mark Finke of
Jayne Thompson Antiques

Jasmine Doussiere of Silver Art by D & R



IN MEMORIAM

DAVID B. FORD

David B. Ford passed away on September 20, 2020. Among David's many community connections, he was an inaugural member of the Newport Historical Society's Leadership Council, and a supporter of The Newport Show every year of its operation, including 2020.

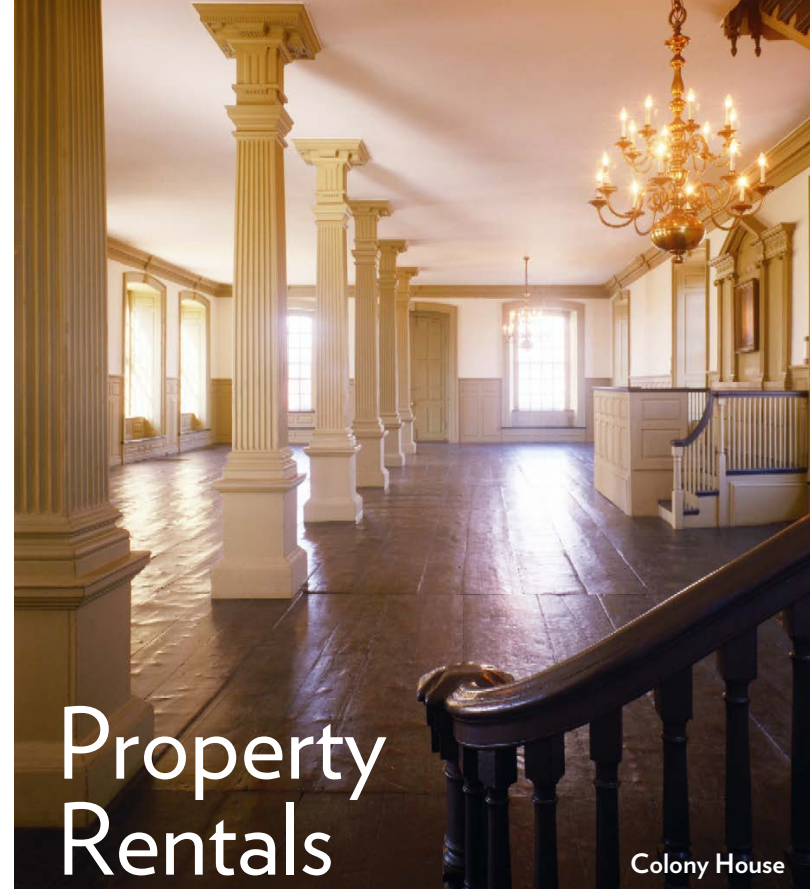
David supported the NHS in many ways — including participating in the original planning to revitalize this organization over 13 year ago.

HENRY HILL ANDERSON, JR.

Henry Hill Anderson, Jr. passed in Mystic, CT on May 11, 2020. He was a keen yachtsman, former commodore of the New York Yacht Club, and a man of many interests. More importantly, he was an expert on the life and times of railroad tycoon Arthur Curtiss James, his distant kinsman. The NHS assisted "Harry" with research on James' houses and land holdings in Newport, gaining a complete understanding of the Beacon Hill section of the city, plotted by Frederick Law Olmsted and developed by the King and Glover families in the 1880s.

BERTHA SCHLESSINGER ROSS

Friend and neighbor to the NHS, Bertha "B." Schlessinger Ross passed away on October 18, 2020. Quite literally the "gatekeeper" of historic Touro Synagogue, B. Ross was involved in all aspects of the Synagogue as a house of worship and visitor attraction. Since the 1990s, she served on the board of the Touro Synagogue Foundation, Executive Director and Chair. She was also past President of Congregation Jeshuat Israel. She helped see the Synagogue through restorations, new buildings and exhausting legal challenges. Her daily presence on the Touro Street properties will be missed.



Property Rentals

Colony House

The Newport Historical Society has three properties that are available for weddings or other similar events. The Colony House, the Great Friends Meeting House, and the Leatherman Program Center at the Seventh Day Baptist Meeting House are all available for rental.

While all event venues claim to be special, Newport's historic structures truly are. Because of the historical importance and significant age of the properties, particular care must be taken in choosing to host an event here. Careful, appropriate use of these unique sites ensures the continued preservation of the buildings and their contents while providing an authentic, historic setting for your event. And of course, all events must adhere to state regulations on Covid-19 safety.

For more information and to download a rental application, visit newporthistory.org/events/rent-a-venue



Great Friends Meeting House

RECENT ACQUISITIONS



PAINTING OF MARION SAFFOLD OATES CHARLES AND ROBERT CHARLES

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. S. Matthews V. Hamilton Jr.

The Newport Historical Society recently received a donation of a portrait of Marion Saffold Oates Charles (1919-2018) and her husband Robert Charles (1913-2000). The portrait depicts Oatsie and Robert sitting in their parlor circa 1980.

Born in Montgomery, Alabama, Oatsie was the granddaughter of William C. Oates, governor of Alabama 1894-1896. After completing school, she settled in New York and was known for a wide circle of acquaintances and friends, including President John F. Kennedy, James Bond novelist Ian Fleming and First Lady Nancy Reagan.

Robert and Oatsie married in 1968 and were central figures in the Newport social scene, splitting time between Georgetown and Newport. For years she lived at Land's End, the estate once owned by famed novelist Edith Wharton. Towards the end of her life, she remodeled and moved to an eight-car garage on the property.



Painting of Marion Saffold Oates Charles (Oatsie) and Robert Charles in their parlor, circa 1980. NHS 2020.003.001, Newport Historical Society Collection.



ABOVE: Postcard depicting boats and Navy ships in the East Passage after an America's Cup race. NHS 2009.3.26, Newport Historical Society Collection.

LEFT: Buttons from the 1974 America's Cup race and trials. NHS 2020.014.001-.003, Newport Historical Society Collection.



1974 AMERICA'S CUP BUTTONS

Gift of John Carrellas

Recently, the Newport Historical Society received three buttons from the 1974 America's Cup race for the permanent collection. The donor notes that the buttons were given to him by a member of the *Southern Cross* team during the summer of the race while he worked at Carrellas Pharmacy on Thames Street. The race between the US defender, *Courageous*, and the Australian challenger, *Southern Cross*, was held in Newport.

The *Courageous* beat out several other vessels to become the defender of the cup including the *Intrepid*, which had won the previous cup in 1970. Support for the *Intrepid* to defend the title is evidence by a button which features the *Intrepid* and reads "Defending The America's Cup 1974." Another button features the slogan, "Keep the Cup" which the crew of the *Courageous* successfully did.



History Space

It has become an annual tradition for the Newport Historical Society to present a living history event in late August, with 75+ participants traveling from across the East Coast to volunteer their time and expertise. This program brings to life a specific incident from Newport's history and is the centerpiece of the Society's History Space initiative. While it was not feasible to continue this model in 2020, History Space pivoted to feature a series of small programs across the summer and fall. These "pop-up" style events, presented at the Colony House by two or three living historians, featured rotating themes grounded in Newport's 18th century history. While smaller in nature than typical History Space programs, they're equally as intriguing for visitors, and follow the latest COVID-19 guidelines.



Esther Hodges-LeClaire discusses children's games and toys during an October History Space event.

2020 Programs

- The Stamp Act Riots of 1765 – August 15
- Feminine Fashions in the 18th Century – September 5
- Masculine Fashions in the 18th Century – September 12
- Old Fashioned Fun – October 3
- In a Soldier Led Manor: Fashion of the Continental Army – October 10
- Newport Commerce, Riches and Insolvency: Meeting Matthew and Mary Borden – October 17
- Homespun Fashions – October 24
- Newport's Funeral for Liberty: An Event from October 31, 1765 – October 31

History Space Videos

- A Lady's Dressing Gown
- Creating an 18th Century Hairstyle
- An Englishman in 1765 Rhode Island
- A Tool of Last Resort – Artillery Hammer
- A Royal Navy Officer's Belongings
- Military Uniforms



NHS living historian Mary Elizabeth Corrigan discusses a lady's dressing gown.

Subscribe to the 'NewportHistorical Society' on YouTube to be the first to know about new videos.

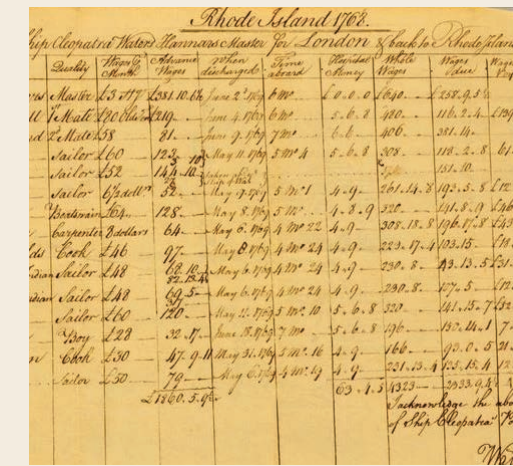
Know Your History

ONLINE AT: NewportHistory.org

Our understanding of the past changes over time often as new information becomes relevant. History can be unfamiliar and disconcerting. 'Know Your History' aims to connect audiences with historical information that is relevant to the moment and what is happening in the world. Direct parallels to the past are not the point; addressing questions like "how did we get here?" while struggling to answer, "and what are we going to do now?" Currently 'Know Your History' is focused on RI's history relative to people of African descent, Native Americans, and the history of protest and suffrage. Watch this page as it will change as new controversies and events begin to unfold to help the public know their history."



Photograph of James Ray, the first African-American police officer in Newport, P288
Newport Historical Society Collections.



Exhibit

Finding Native Americans in the Historical Record

ONLINE AT: Nahr-nhs.com

IN PERSON AT: **The Museum of Newport History & Shop**, 127 Thames Street, Newport, RI
Call ahead to check the hours, 401-841-8770

NERFC Fellows

This summer, NHS hosted three fellows through its membership in the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium. NERFC is a collaboration of 30 major cultural agencies that awarded more than two dozen fellowships for the 2020-2021 program. Fellows visiting NHS utilized our vast archival and material culture collections to complete their research on a wide range of topics in Newport's history.

Charlotte Carrington-Farmer, Assistant Professor of History at Roger Williams University, examined how the New England horse trade played into wider transatlantic trade systems, and the effects that role had on the British Empire.

Astrid Tevenstrand, Ph.D. candidate at Boston University, looked at nineteenth century landscape painting and the role that it played in the creation of Newport's summer colony/second home culture.

Jerrad Pacatte, Ph.D candidate at Rutgers University, explored the experience of African American women in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century as they navigated the transition to freedom in New England.

For more information about the program or conducting research at NHS, please email research@newporthistory.org.



TOP: Charlotte Carrington-Farmer, Assistant Professor of History at Roger Williams University, researching at NHS.

ABOVE: Watercolor by William Trost Richards (1833-1905) of Dale Cottage, his summer home. NHS 78.2.1, Newport Historical Society Collection.

“THE WOMEN KNOW WHAT THEY WANT AND THEY KNOW HOW TO GET IT”

Tuesday, November 2, 1920 was the first presidential election after the 19th Amendment became law. That day, Newport saw the largest voter turnout in history, largely due to the turnout of women who “went at it like veterans... destined to be a power in future elections” (*Newport Mercury*, November 6, 1920).



When the United States became a country in 1776, voting was controlled by the legislatures of each state. The ratification of the Constitution did not change this. The power of the state to set voter eligibility meant that women were not constitutionally granted the right to vote until 1920 when the 19th Amendment passed. Prior to the ratification of the 19th Amendment women faced inequities in voting. Some states permitted partial suffrage with women voting in local, state and federal elections depending on geography, race, citizenship and economic status. Some territories granted unrestricted suffrage to women; Wyoming in 1869 and Utah in 1870. Post the ratification of the 19th Amendment many women continued to face voting discrimination due to disenfranchisement laws, with states enacting resident requirements, poll taxes, literacy tests and other measures.

Rhode Island women gained suffrage in stages. The first petition to the Rhode Island legislature for women's suffrage was submitted in 1867 by Elizabeth Buffum Chace, however it wasn't until 1917 when Rhode Island women won their first suffrage victory, the right to vote in presidential elections, in a bill that passed the legislature in April of that year. Rhode Island was the first of the six New England states to grant presidential suffrage. Tuesday, July 1, 1919 was a landmark day for Rhode Island women being the first day they could register to vote in the presidential election of 1920. The Newport Women 1919 Newport Voter Registration Book in the collections of the Newport Historical Society is filled with the names of women who registered to vote just after Congress passed the 19th Amendment on June 4, 1919, but before it was ratified over a year later.

The Rhode Island Legislature ratified the 19th Amendment on January 6, 1920, the twenty-fourth state do so. Rhode Island women would not receive full suffrage until August 1920 when the 19th Amendment was ratified by a majority of states declaring “the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.” By October 1920 Rhode Island had added 77,836 women to a total voting population of 199,956 (*Newport Mercury*, October 23, 1920). When Newport women turned out at the polls on November 2, 1920, they were eligible to vote not only in the presidential election, but in the national, state and town elections. The *Newport Mercury*, observed: “The women know what they want and they know how to get it” (*Newport Mercury*, November 6, 1920). ➤

ABOVE: “Woman’s Journal Day” (most likely 1914). Ingeborg Kindstedt in the center with two unidentified women. Photograph, from Sara M. Algeo, *The Story of a Sub-Pioneer* (Providence, R.I.: Snow & Farnham Co., 1925), 151.

Husband born in Africa - Papers to him - Clara L. DeCoursey

Clara L. DeCoursey (1882 - ?) registered to vote on April 9, 1920. In the 1919-1920 *Women Voter Registration Voter Book for Newport*, Clara listed her birthplace as Boston and that she arrived in Newport, RI in 1886. She listed her husband's birthplace as Africa. She appears in the 1907 Newport City Directory as Miss Clara L. Mitchell, boarding at 20 Filmore Street. By the 1915 RI Census she was married to William S. DeCoursey (as his second wife) with a son, William Jr. (born 1915) and living at 31 Filmore Street. All three are recorded in the 1915 census as black.

Clara's husband, William S. DeCoursey was born in Africa in 1856. He arrived in the US via New York City in 1870 at the age of 14. His father was naturalized in New York in 1879. William came to Rhode Island as a laborer in 1885, settling at 31 Fillmore Court (1889 *Enrollment of Male Persons above 20 Years of Age*, NHS). He is listed in the 1900 *Federal Census* as born in Liberia in 1857 and living at 31 Filmore Street with his widowed mother, Caroline S. DeCoursey and his first wife Minerva DeCoursey. The 1920 *Newport City Directory* lists William's occupation as porter. William's mother Caroline was president of the Newport Woman's League, date unknown.

Clara's son William Spencer DeCoursey died 29 December 1975. He was a Navy veteran and retired Navy base employee living at 49 School Street. He was an officer and member of the Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Clara L. DeCoursey

Anna L. Flotman (August 21, 1871-Jan. 15, 1937) registered to vote on May 24, 1920. In the 1919-1920 *Women Voter Registration for Newport*, Anna's birthplace is listed as Sweden and current address is 24 Perry Street. She emigrated from Sweden in 1890 and became a naturalized US citizen in 1907 (1920 US Census).

Her husband Ewald Flotman (d. August 20, 1924) emigrated from Russia to the United States in 1894 and became a naturalized US citizen in 1896 (1925 RI Census). He was a chief gunner's mate in the United States Navy. He also worked as a machinist at the Torpedo Station and later owned a painting business.

Following her husband's death in 1924, Anna relocated to 35 Corne Street in Newport.

Anna L. Flotman

Ida E. Gibbons (1891 -?) registered to vote on March 3, 1920. She listed her birthplace as Cossackie, NY, 1891 and that she arrived in Newport, RI in 1907 (1919-1920 *Women Voter Registration Voter Book for Newport*). The 1915 *Rhode Island State Census* records that her father and mother were from Bermuda; and that Ida, her sister Etta, and father Rev. Charles Gibbons were of “multiple” race. The 1920 *Newport City Directory* listed Ida, her sister and father as living at 47 William Street. Ida's occupation is noted as a dressmaker.

Ida Gibbons was a member of the Woman's Newport League, an affiliate of the Rhode Island Union of Colored Women's Clubs. She was also the “Juvenile Superintendent” of the “R.I. Union of Colored Women's Clubs,” meeting on October 13, 1913 at the Pond Street Baptist Church in Providence. The R.I. Union voted to endorse the “R.I. Woman's Party,” at that meeting (Sara Algeo, *The Story of a Sub-Pioneer* (Providence; Snow and Farnham, 1925), 164).

Ida's father, Reverend Charles N. Gibbons (1847-1931), was the pastor of the Mt. Zion African Methodist Church in Newport from 1903 – 1906. He was born January 1, 1847 in Bermuda. In 1884 he entered the ministry and became the pastor to several churches in Canada. He arrived in the US in 1889, serving as a pastor in NYC before making his way to Newport in 1903. His wife, May Cordelia Basden, also of Bermuda, died in 1915.

At the time of his death, Rev. Gibbons was survived by a son, Ernest T. Gibbons, and 3 daughters, Mrs. S. B. Freeman, Mrs. Manuel Rose, Miss Ettie Gibbons.

Ida E. Gibbons

“THE WOMEN KNOW WHAT THEY WANT AND THEY KNOW HOW TO GET IT”



Jessie H. MacLeod (1888-1970) registered to vote on October 29, 1919. She listed her birthplace as Newport, Rhode Island and her address as 10 Rhode Island Avenue (1919-1920 *Women Voter Registration Voter Book for Newport*). She was the daughter of Angus and Jessie MacLeod, immigrants from Stornaway, Isle of Lewis, Scotland. Her father, Angus, owned a prominent retail store, *The Boston Store*, on Thames Street. The 1915 *Rhode Island State Census* recorded that Jessie lived with two older brothers, William and Roderick MacLeod. William MacLeod was mayor of Newport for a brief time.

Jessie H. MacLeod.

In 1918 Jessie did canteen work for the YMCA in Newport and the surrounding community before leaving for overseas duty where she served with the YMCA in France running a “refreshment station” in an abandoned hotel in France “serving food and refreshment to soldiers going to and returning from the front.” (November 2, 1918, January 25, 1918 *Newport Mercury*).

At some point after the war she worked for three years as a governess in India. Jessie returned to Newport where she lived the rest of her life, working as a guide at the Breakers museum house.

Harriet R Nelson (1864-1931) registered to vote on March 3, 1920. She listed her birthplace as Maryland, and that she arrived in Newport, RI in 1888 (1919-1920 *Women Voter Registration Voter Book for Newport*). The 1915 *Rhode Island State Census* recorded Harriet as a black female, head of household, whose parents were born in the US. The 1920 *Newport City Directory* listed her as the widow of Edward O. Nelson, living at 62 Mill Street, Boarding House. Harriet purchased the Mill Street property from Mary DeWolf Guild in 1914, later selling interests in the property to Leopoldo B. Amado and Morris H. Layton, Jr. and his wife Olive Nelson (Newport Land Evidence & Tax Assessor Cards, Newport City Hall). Harriet was a member of the Woman’s Newport League, an affiliate of the Rhode Island Union of Colored Women’s Clubs. At the fifth annual conference of the Rhode Island Union of Colored Women’s Clubs, Mrs. H. R. Nelson of Newport was elected 2nd vice-president.

Harriet R. Nelson

Maud L. Stevens (May 16, 1869 – Nov. 11, 1949) registered to vote on April 27, 1920 in the Newport 1919-1920 *Women Voter Registration* book. She was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts where her father, George Stevens, worked in manufacturing. Her parents relocated to Newport shortly afterwards and the family lived with her maternal grandparents, Rev. Charles T. and Harriett Brooks of Channing Memorial Church. Her great-great grandfather was Major Daniel Lyman. Her father passed away at a young age and Maud lived with her mother and a combination of other relatives including her grandmother.

Maud Lyman Stevens

Maud was known to be a writer and historian, although she has no official occupation listed on any US or RI Census. She was well known in the Newport community and was involved in many local organizations, including: Newport Historical Society, Rhode Island Society of Colonial Dames, Newport Garden Club, Jamestown Garden Club, Newport Art Association, Current Topics Club and Home for the Aged on Washington Street.

At the time of her death in 1949 she resided at 30 Kay Street in Newport. She is buried in Island Cemetery.

Edith May Tilley (December 19, 1875 – July 18, 1938) registered to vote on May 4, 1920 according to the Newport *Women Voter Registration* book. She was born in Newport, Rhode Island to R. Hammett and Susan Barlow Tilley.

Edith May Tilley

She graduated from Rogers High School and then became an assistant to her father, the librarian of the Newport Historical Society. She succeeded him in that position after his death in 1910. Tilley left Newport in 1917 to pursue a career in genealogy in Boston. She returned to Newport in 1930 and resumed her work as the NHS librarian following Lloyd M. Mayer in 1936. She was recognized as “Who’s Who in Genealogy” in 1932 by the National Genealogical Clearing House. She worked at NHS up until her death in 1938.

DATE OF REGISTRY	NAME	NO. OF STREET	RESIDENCE AT TIME OF REGISTERING	PLACE OF BIRTH	DATE OF BIRTH	If born or has resided without the State, name the State to which he or she has returned	If born or has resided without the City, name the City to which he or she has returned	IF OF FOREIGN BIRTH OR PARENTAGE	
			NAME OF STREET					DATE WHEN SHE CAME TO U. S.	PLACE WHERE SHE LANDED IN U. S.
July 1, 1919	Rice, Harriet A.	75	Spring St.	Newport	1874				

Harriet Rice (1866-1958) registered to vote on July 1, 1919. In the 1919-1920 *Women Voter Registration Voter Book for Newport*, Harriet listed her birthplace as Newport, and her address as 75 Spring Street. She was the daughter of George A. and Lucinda Webster Rice. Census information tells us that by the early decades of the 20th century she lived with her sister Sophia Rice in Newport, and that her occupation was as a physician.

Rice attended Rogers High School and Wellesley College. She was the first African American to graduate from Wellesley in 1887. She attended the University of Michigan as a medical student for 1 year before being forced to withdraw due to illness. She enrolled in the M.D. degree program at the Woman’s Medical College of the New York Infirmary for Women and Children in September 1890. The following year, she interned at the New England Hospital for Women and Children in Boston. In fall of 1893, she began work at Hull-House, the Chicago settlement house founded by Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Starr. By 1904, Rice was back in New England working in Boston, then Providence.

At the outbreak of WWI, Rice volunteered as a medical intern in France and was issued a passport in December of 1914, listing her countries to visit as France, England and Belgium and her purpose nursing. She worked at the French military hospital in Poitiers from January 1915 until the end of the war in November 1918. In July 1919, she was awarded the bronze medal of *Reconnaissance Française* on behalf of the French government by Prince de Bearn, *charge d’affaires* of the French embassy in Washington for her “immense services” and “her devotion and ability in caring for the French wounded.”

She died in Worcester, MA in May 24, 1958 and is buried in God’s Little Acre at the Newport Common Burying Ground.

Harriet A. Rice M.D.



1663

King Charles II grants the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations the Royal Charter of 1663, which would remain the constitution until 1843. Under this charter only freemen (adult male residents) and freeholders (landowners) could vote.

1719

Publishes laws of the Colony which include a provision exempting Catholics and non-Christians from full citizenship. While it appears that this law was never passed by the colonial General Assembly, clearly some sentiment to limit suffrage existed.

1783

Rhode Island specifically grants Catholic men the right to vote.

1798

Rhode Island specifically grants Jewish men the right to vote.

1841

Rhode Island is still operating under the 1663 Royal Charter and more than 60% of Rhode Island men cannot vote. Thomas Dorr forms the Rhode Island Suffrage Association which re-writes the constitution and submits it to the people, a majority of whom vote in favor of it and vote for Dorr for governor. This action leads to a period of months in which there are two governors and two constitutions until Dorr finally leads an armed rebellion which is quickly defeated.

1843

Rhode Island adopts a new constitution that grants expanded voting rights to free men of any race who owned property or could pay a poll tax.

1867

The first petition for women's suffrage is submitted to the Rhode Island legislature by Elizabeth Buffum Chace — 19 years after the first Woman's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York

1870

Congress passes the 15th Amendment granting suffrage to all males of any race.

1887

Rhode Island becomes the first eastern state to vote on a women's suffrage referendum, but it does not pass.

1888

Naturalized foreign-born citizens are granted the right to vote. Rhode Island passes the Bourne amendment. All male citizens who own \$134 of property (not just real estate) qualify to vote.

1917

Rhode Island grants women the right to vote in presidential elections only.

1919

Congress passes the 19th Amendment.

1920

Rhode Island ratifies the 19th Amendment on January 6, 1920. Women will not receive full suffrage until August 1920 when the amendment is ratified by a majority of states. Disenfranchisement laws hindering women's, particularly minority women's, ability to vote remain in place in many states.



Suffragists surrounded Governor Beeckman as he signed the bill authorizing the state's ratification of the 19th amendment. Photograph. January 7, 1920, RH1 X17 3953, RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS.

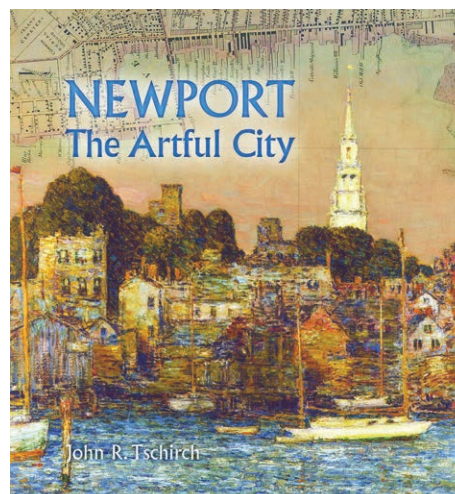
Newport The Artful City



Working with the Newport Historical Society, John Tschirch wrote *Newport The Artful City*. This book is a richly illustrated portrait of Newport, Rhode Island as a work of urban art, from colonial times to the present, both documented and celebrated in the maps, paintings, photographs, poetry and prose of renowned artists and writers. It includes essays by David J. Silverman, Professor of History, George Washington University, Edward E. Andrews, Associate Professor of History and Classics, Providence College, and Eileen Warburton, Independent Scholar.

As one of the most historically intact cities in North America, Newport has a cultural and architectural heritage of national significance. Each of the city's districts has its own distinct character with street plans and buildings revealing the political, religious, commercial and artistic forces that have shaped Newport through the ages. Stately Colonial squares and bustling wharves, picturesque Victorian villas and scenic drives, opulent Gilded Age palaces for the few and electric streetcars for the many, and preservation movements to honor the past and modernist schemes for a metropolis of the future all tell stories of urban beauty and controversy, of eras of lavish building, urban decay and extraordinary revival.

We are so very grateful to have been a part of the making of this beautiful book, which is available for purchase from the Museum of Newport History & Shop.



By John Tschirch. Published by D Giles Limited with the Newport Historical Society, 2020. 240 pages, hardcover.

Endlessly Interesting Shopping Starts Here.



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We are excited to share that Shop Newport History now has a blog where we will discuss how to choose gifts for people who are *hard to buy for*. Read our first entry below titled, “Your Source for Endlessly Interesting Gifts.”

While it is the time of year to pick apples, pull out your sweaters, and indulge in everything pumpkin spice, we know many of you are also shopping early for the holidays because of the unpredictability of the months ahead.

We are grateful for your patronage and business and want to be your source for endlessly interesting gifts this holiday season. In fact, we can help you check off everyone on your list, even those who are *hard to buy for* because our store's selection is curated around diverse, relevant, and unique products. To demonstrate our ability to help you find gifts for anyone, we are releasing a blog series of actual instances when shoppers requested our help selecting a gift along with how we were able to help them overcome the obstacles that made this person seem hard to buy for and ultimately, the selected gift.

Follow us @shopnewporthistory to stay up to date on all shop updates or check back here to read the latest blog entry. If you are struggling to think of a gift for someone who is hard to buy for and would like our help, please reach out to us by calling 401-841-8770 or email Jenna at jteachout@newporthistorical.org. As always, 100% of the proceeds from anything purchased directly benefits the Newport Historical Society.

This year has demonstrated how our daily lives can be truly upended in unexpected ways and that no one knows what challenges the next few months could bring. We want to help reduce your stress in any way we can — all orders through our webstore will continue to ship for free through the end of the year and if desired, will be sent wrapped to your recipient.



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Your gift to the Newport Historical Society is always important and necessary. This year, in particular, so many of you answered our call. Some simply renewed their annual gift, at a time when you had every excuse to pause your giving, and we are grateful. Others raised their donation to levels we weren't expecting, and we are touched and thankful! And some of you are new here — *welcome!*

Your gift to the NHS provides us the opportunity to keep studying and interpreting 500 years of important, relevant and global Newport County history. To all of you, *thank you!*

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Postcard of Admiral William Sims visit to Newport in April 1919, circa 1919. NHS 2009.3.3, Newport Historical Society Collection.

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Photograph of railroad tracks near Long Wharf, looking east towards the Point neighborhood of Newport. NHS P9303, Gift of Henry Wood.

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Photograph of a group eating an outdoor meal near Gooseneck Cove and Green Bridge, circa 1895. NHS P8629, Newport Historical Society Collection.

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